

# DOWNING COLLEGE | 2018



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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER  
MAGENTA NEWS  
COLLEGE RECORD





Dan Levy - "Little Red Riding Student" - Highly Commended Downing Alumni Photographic Competition



Michael Siu - "Prospect" - Commended Downing Alumni Photographic Competition

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*Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in the articles in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of Downing College or the Downing College Alumni Association.*

# DOWNING COLLEGE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER 2018

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2017–2018

### PRESIDENT

J N Tait MA CEng FICE

### VICE PRESIDENTS

P Thomson MA

J G Hicks MA FREng

F Weiss MA

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### The President

#### The Immediate Past President

The Rt Hon Lord David Lloyd Jones  
MA LLB

#### The President-elect

B W Hunt MA MEd (Exeter) CMath FIMA

#### The Honorary Secretary & Editor

S Walker MA

#### The Assistant Secretary (*Merchandise*)

P R Whittington MA

#### The Assistant Secretary (*College Record*)

Z H Barber MA PhD

#### The Honorary Treasurer

N Berger MA

#### Elected Committee Members

C G Blackmore MA PhD (Liverpool)  
(1991)

D J Riddoch MA PhD (1995)

K E Fish MA ACA CTA (2008)

D G G Davies MA MA (Manchester)  
PhD (Manchester) (1971)

H Groom BA MSci MA PhD (2001)

G C Erangey MA LLM (UEM) (2009)

#### Ex-officio Committee Members

G B Williams BA PhD, *Senior Tutor*

C M Middleton BA (UL), *Interim  
Development Director*

R M Kirkley, *Events Officer*  
(from 1 March 2018)

S Gatens, *JCR President*  
(to 14 February 2018)

J Soleiman, *JCR President*  
(from 15 February 2018)

A Bedorf MSc (Bonn), *MCR President*  
(from January 2017)

#### Co-opted Committee Members

K Dyer MA MB BChir DRCOG MRCP

A R Farmer MA PhD MIET

K E Storey MA LLM MA (Brunel)

#### HONORARY AUDITORS

M J Mays MA PhD FRIC

R J Richards MA PhD



## PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

As I write this, I am already almost two thirds of the way through my term of office and am wondering where the time went. The official duties of the President do not, on paper, seem onerous, but living near to Cambridge, as I do, it is easy for me to attend many College events.

Away from Cambridge, I was able to attend the Advent Carol Service held in late November in St Pancras Parish Church, London where the Downing Choir performed brilliantly under the able supervision of the Chaplin, Keith Eyeons. The event was well attended, and I enjoyed meeting so many familiar faces during the mulled wine reception afterwards.

Nearer to home I have been a regular diner, with my wife Sue, at the High Table 'First Friday' dinners. These provide a wonderful opportunity to meet the Fellows and their guests and enjoy the family atmosphere which Downing has always provided. The Annual Reunion Dinner held in March, for those who matriculated in a year ending with an '8', provided me with the opportunity to meet members of the Association from nearly every decade and to wear my President's Jewel for the first time following the Annual Dinner.

Being a former Captain of Boats, one of the highlights of the year was a multi-event occasion in April. The afternoon commenced with the Segreants' Regatta in which seven crews were entered. This was followed by a series of events at the Boathouse. Firstly, the naming of two new boats, a women's eight, 'Rachel', named in honour of the late Rachel Penny, née Pearce (1986) and a men's four, 'The Segreants'. The highlight, however, was the official opening of Downing's indoor rowing tank, the only one in Cambridge and the east of England, and rather splendidly called 'The Cambridge Rowing Tank'. It made the national news and I was able to read about it beforehand in The Times on my laptop while on holiday in Canada. The day was not yet over and, in the evening, wearing my trusty 54-year-old Boat Club blazer, I attended a very enjoyable Segreants' Dinner.

As mentioned above, the duties of the President are not particularly onerous. Most of the hard work is carried out by the Executive Committee, with Simon Walker taking on the difficult and time-consuming role of Hon. Secretary. This is a truly major commitment and both Simon and myself have been fortunate that the previous Secretary and current President Elect, Barrie Hunt, has been very supportive in ensuring a smooth transition by providing a great deal of advice and counsel. The Merchandising Working Group (MWG) under the leadership of former President, Kate Dyer, and Assistant Secretary, Peter Whittington, does a huge amount of work in creating, sourcing and selling Downing Merchandise. By their work and that of the rest of the members of the MWG, the Association has been able to authorise grants of up to £13,000 to undergraduates in the

current academic year. Particular mention must be made of Katherine Fish who has, in a very short space of time, designed and developed the Association's e-commerce website, [www.downing-gifts.com](http://www.downing-gifts.com), and also facilitated the use of a card reader so that payment for merchandise at events can be made by card rather than the lengthy and time-consuming paper forms that had been in use previously.

Retiring from the Executive at the AGM is Norman Berger who has done sterling work as Hon. Treasurer for ten years. The Association is very grateful to Norman for his great contribution over the years. A few days after my one-year term of office as President comes to the end in September, the Master, Geoffrey Grimmett, comes to the end of his five-year term. The Association is very grateful to him for his support and we now look forward to welcoming his successor, Alan Bookbinder.

Another event affecting the Association is the changes in the Development Office with whom the Association works closely. Since Gabrielle Bennett left the post of Development Director to return to the USA, Cat Middleton has ably filled the breach as Interim Development Director and has been an enthusiastic helper and supporter of the Association as an ex-officio member of the Executive. We were delighted to learn that she is staying on as Director of Engagement and Development Operations and we also look forward to working with the new holder of the post of Director of Advancement when the position is filled later this summer.

**Neville Tait (1962)**

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

## NEXT YEAR'S PRESIDENT

In writing this introduction, I am tempted to refer the reader to page 15 of the 2011 *Newsletter*, where seven years ago, I introduced myself as the new Secretary of the Association and used up all the suitable anecdotes at my disposal. However, I hope that those with photographic memories will forgive a summary for those who do not have a copy of the *Newsletter* to hand. The former may wish to skip to paragraph 6....



I came up to Downing in 1966 from the City of Norwich School to study Mathematics. Besides educating Bernard Matthews of turkey fame, the CNS had a reputation for supplying Downing with good men – its old boys included, for example, Alan Howard and David Holbrook. Consequently, the Headmaster had no hesitation in advising me to “Apply to Downing – we sent them a Wrangler a few years back and they owe us a favour”. As a very shy youth and armed with top grades at A and S levels, together with an (open) reference that said that I “made good conversation when encouraged”, I duly arrived expectantly for my September interview. Interviews were much simpler in those days – John Todd read back my application form to me and asked if each statement was accurate and Peter Gay, Senior Tutor, engaged me in conversation about tennis and cricket. I was optimistic of success until he informed me on leaving that he had ten people with qualifications like mine and that he was offering only three places – the rest of us would have to fight it out in the Entrance Exam. Despite performing better in the General and Languages papers, my Mathematics was judged to be adequate and I duly received the offer letter on Christmas Eve.

One of the great benefits of the collegiate system is that it offers opportunities for students to get involved at all levels and gives opportunities for individuals to develop in so many ways – academically, physically and socially through organizing and running societies and teams, even if only as Captain of the table tennis 5th team. Whilst I enjoyed much of my study of Mathematics, I also seized upon many of the other experiences on offer at College. Whilst this may have been at the cost of the class of my final degree, it has served me well in life – I last used my mathematics 20 years ago, but I still continue to serve as Chairman of our local tennis club!

My working life was in Education. In my early career, I taught Mathematics, Statistics and Computing to 3–93 year-olds in a variety of Higher Education institutions – CCAT

(now Anglia Ruskin University), Homerton College, Downing (where I supervised Part 1 Nat Sci and PGCE students) and the Open University. I became interested in curriculum development and ways in which A level Maths could be made more accessible through the technology revolution of the 1980s. Following spells as Head of Maths and Vice Principal at a sixth form college, Assistant Director of the SMP 16-19 Project and at a boys' grammar school, I moved to UCLES (now rebranded as Cambridge Assessment) and headed up the development team at OCR, where my main function was to ensure that the raw policy that came in our direction from government was translated into workable examinations.

Meanwhile, I married Sue in 1974 and our sons Robert (Law, Magdalene 1994) and David (Medicine, Downing 1996) both came up to Cambridge. We have continued to live in Cambridge for the vast majority of our married life and as such, have seen huge changes to the city.

Whilst, as Editor, I naturally focused the *Newsletter* on new building on the Domus, the changes in Cambridge have been at least as great. I would urge any alumnus visiting Downing to spend an hour or so touring Cambridge. Maybe start by getting the "of0" app and pick up one of the 500 bright yellow bikes that will have been dumped somewhere near you. Cycle out towards Addenbrooke's Hospital along the wide red cycle lanes of Hills Road, where you will see the construction of the massive bio-medical campus which, in 2019, will include the HQ of Astro-Zeneca ("AZ" to those in the know) and the new Papworth Hospital. If you have time head for the West Cambridge site - a huge 66 hectare development which is home to a number of major University departments and research. Then on to the emerging suburb of Eddington in north-west Cambridge with 700 University key-worker residences. Finally, leave your yellow bike at the new Cambridge North railway station. It is a growing city!

As Secretary to the Association, I greatly enjoyed learning of the achievements of Downing members around the world and meeting many at various events. It is a great honour to be invited to take on the role of President of the Alumni Association and I am very much looking forward to serving for the coming year.

**Barrie Hunt (1966)**

## THE MAIN OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- To keep Members of Downing in touch with one another and the College.
- To facilitate united action in any matter concerning the welfare of the College and its Members.
- To publish and circulate an annual Newsletter.
- To hold an annual dinner.

As well as publishing the *Newsletter* and holding the annual dinner, the Association sells a range of merchandise with profits going towards the Alumni Student Fund.

## CONTACT WITH THE ASSOCIATION

The Association welcomes and encourages contacts from its Members.

Some Members tell us that they don't send in information because they think no-one will be interested in them – they are wrong!! Many Members tell us how much they enjoy reading about their contemporaries with whom they have lost contact.

- Please tell us or your Year Rep about interesting things happening in your family or working life; The Editor would be pleased to receive information or articles that may be of interest to others for publication in the News of Members section – either in the form of a short biographical note or a fuller, reflective article on your career;
- Come to events organised by the College Development Office;
- Think about organising a reunion – the Development Office will be pleased to help with this.

You can **contact us** by:

- email to [association@dow.cam.ac.uk](mailto:association@dow.cam.ac.uk);
- returning the enclosed form to update personal details and keep us up to date with aspects of your career and/or personal life.

The **Association website** can be accessed:

- from the College website [www.dow.cam.ac.uk](http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk) by following the 'People' link;
- or directly via [www.dow.cam.ac.uk/people/downing-college-alumni-association](http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/people/downing-college-alumni-association).

To **purchase merchandise** type "Downing gifts" into Google or go to the Association website (above) and choose the option 'Souvenirs and Gifts' or choose the direct link [www.downing-gifts.com](http://www.downing-gifts.com).

The Rules of the Association, the Draft Minutes of the 2017 AGM and Back copies of the *Newsletter* (excluding *Magenta News*) can be found by going to the Association website (above) and choosing 'About us'. *Magenta News* may be accessed through the Development Office link <https://www.downingcambridge.com/magenta-news>.

The Development Office website, for College events, is [www.downingcambridge.com](http://www.downingcambridge.com).

## THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 90th Annual General Meeting was held in the Howard Theatre on Saturday 23 September 2017. The following is a brief summary – the full draft minutes are available on the website (see above).

The President reported the sad death of David Blackadder. He was a distinguished scientist who in 1983 became the College's first full-time Bursar, a role he carried out until his retirement in 1997. He was a very good friend of the Association, appreciating the importance of the alumni.

The Association's Photographic Competition had attracted many excellent photos, a selection of which had been on display and for sale at Alumni Day. The Merchandise Working Group led by Dr Kate Dyer (1982) had worked very hard throughout the year. Roy Farmer (1958) and David James (1968) had worked closely with the College to create the Association's new website.

The Executive has noted two key upcoming events. 2020 is the fortieth anniversary of women being admitted and 2022 is the centenary of the foundation of the Association. Consideration is being given as to how to mark these anniversaries and the views of the Association will be sought in due course.

The President referred to the decision of Mr Barrie Hunt (1966) not to continue in office. The Executive had considered how best to fill this role and concluded that the post-holder should be supported by an Assistant Secretary, who would have responsibility for the merchandising function. The President thanked Mr Hunt for all he had done for the Association during his seven years in office.

The Treasurer reported that during the past year, the Association's finances had continued to recover with a total surplus of £1,125. Merchandise sales totalled £8,060 compared with £8,486 the previous year. This enabled the Association, through the Alumni Student Fund, to provide 65 students with grants of £9,411. The balance sheet showed assets of £35,713 compared with £34,588 the previous year. The combined cash at Barclays Bank and at the Cambridge Building Society amounts to £18,311 compared with £19,684 in the previous year.

The Chair of the Merchandise Working Group, Dr Kate Dyer (1982), thanked all those

involved with its work, particularly **Peter Whittington (1962)**. There had been a drop in sales earlier in the year due to a problem arising in connection with the redesign of the College's website. Sixty per cent of sales are made at events, so there is a heavy reliance on members. In addition to Association events, there are student events and raffles. The Executive is considering what other events can be attended.

The Vice-Master reported that for the first time in many years there were no major building projects this year. However, the College had been able to acquire another property in Lensfield Road which had been refurbished thanks to the generosity of Foundation Fellow Tadayoshi "Taz" Tazaki. The Vice-Master noted the ever-increasing number of postgraduates; in 1983 there were 25, in 2017 there were 350. Of the new buildings, the Heong Gallery has transformed the profile of the College and the Howard Theatre continues to be a tremendous asset. New paving stones have been laid in front of the Library and there has been much planting throughout the Domus, especially around the Library. Further afield, a rowing tank has been installed in the Boat House.

The Election of Officers resulted in the following changes. The President-elect **Mr Neville Tait (1962)** became President whilst **Mr Barrie Hunt (1966)** was elected as President-elect. **Mr Simon Walker (1975)** was elected Honorary Secretary. **Mr Gareth Davies (1971)**, **Dr Harriet Groom (2001)** and **Ms Georgina Erangey (2010)** were elected as members of the Executive Committee, replacing **Mr David Garforth Bless (1976)** and **Mr David James (1968)**, who had reached the end of their terms of office. The retiring Past President, **Lord David Lloyd Jones (1970)** and **Mr Peter Whittington (1962)** were co-opted to the Executive Committee, the latter as Assistant Secretary Merchandising.

## OTHER NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

**For several years, the Association has been interested in developing an e-commerce facility for its sales, but practical issues have made this difficult.**

Following the launch of the new College website it was decided to revisit this issue. Thanks to a huge amount of work by **Katherine Fish (2008)** the Association now has a web-based ordering system which be accessed from the Association merchandise page on the College website.

The Association has purchased a bank card reader to facilitate sales at College events and again the driving force behind this was Ms Fish.

At this year's AGM the Executive will propose **Professor Richard Bowring (1945)** for President-elect. **Norman Berger (1952)** is standing down as Honorary Treasurer after 10 years and **David Riddoch (1995)** will be proposed as his replacement. **Colin Blakemore (1991)** and **Norman Berger (1968)** will reach the end of their four-year terms as elected representatives.

## **THE ALUMNI STUDENT FUND**

**The Alumni Student Fund was set up in 2005 to help students at Downing to meet some of their day-to-day financial pressures.**

Using money raised primarily from the sale of Association merchandise, the Fund now provides grants which are normally between £50 and £250, but can occasionally be as much as £500. This year 50 students have been helped with grants totaling £10,089. Most grants are for books or travel to support fieldwork or to attend conferences, but money can also be provided to fund any specific need that will enable a student to pursue their studies more effectively.

The Fund provides a real and immediate way in which alumni can, through the Association, make a real difference to the lives of current students in this increasingly difficult financial climate. All grants are approved by the Tutors who regard the support which the Fund gives to students as extremely important.

In the last year travel grants have been used to attend a conference on John Milton in Birmingham, Alabama and, in the UK, the Warwick Economic Summit, the Royal College of Emergency Medicine Annual Conference and the Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Spinal Cord Society. A grant also contributed to the costs of undertaking a field trip to Japan.

## **THE ASSOCIATION PRIZE**

**The Association awards an annual prize of £300 to graduating students.**

This is awarded to the person or persons who have performed best in the end of year examinations. The decision is made by the Governing Body, but invariably the recipient(s) will have come top of their respective class list. Winners are invited to the Association's Annual Dinner to receive their prize. Congratulations to this year's prize-winner Chi Hao Yip who read Natural Sciences.

## **GLYNN JONES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT EDUCATION**

Members of the Downing Alumni Association are reminded that they are eligible to apply for Glynn Jones Scholarships. These valuable scholarships are for those wishing to further their education for careers in the business and management fields. Any who have already embarked on such careers are welcome to apply if they consider that further education and training are likely to improve their career prospects. Typically, scholarships have been

awarded to help fund MBA or equivalent courses in this country or abroad of not more than two years' duration, but the awards are not restricted to such courses. The value of a scholarship will be determined by the course fees, travel costs and maintenance expenses associated with the course for which the scholarship is awarded. The financial resources of the applicant will also be taken into consideration. For further information about the awards and application process see <http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/students/finances-bursaries-and-awards/college-external-and-university-wide-financial-support>.

## DOWNING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The competition theme was **“The Essence of Downing”**. Many standard photographs of the Domus exist showing the overall layout and architecture and the aim of this competition was to encourage participants to demonstrate what makes Downing so unique and special, perhaps revealing hidden or rarely seen details, unusual views, something interesting, impressionistic or memorable.

The judges were Neville Tait (President of the Alumni Association), Professor Chris Haniff (Fellow in Physics), Barrie Hunt (President Elect) and Dr. Prerona Prasad (Exhibitions and Programming Manager).

Keeping score and ensuring fair play was the Association Secretary, Simon Walker. In coming to its decision, the judging panel considered not only how well the image matched the brief, but also the technical quality of the image in terms of composition, sharpness and exposure. All images were scored anonymously and the authors' names only disclosed once the results had been decided.

There was a good entry this year with 41 images from 10 entrants, considerably up on the 20 images in 2017. Many entries made a good attempt at meeting the brief, but overall the technical quality was not as good as some previous years. A number of the images were not as sharp as they could be and cropping to improve the composition would have helped a number of entries.

The judges were very much at one in selecting the top dozen or so entries, but selecting the top 3 was a matter of lengthy debate, as was choosing between the 'Highly Commended' and 'Commended' images.

Congratulations to Dan Levy for his winning entry titled “Downing M1 - Chaos on the Cam”. It was a good competition for Dan as he also gained second place for his “Master under cover” and a Highly Commended for his “Little Red Riding Student”. Third prize went to Aayush Sonthalia for the monochrome image “Snow Courts”. Highly Commended certificates were also awarded to Natalie Haslam for “Art exists outside the Gallery”, and to



1st place Dan Levy - "Downing M1 - Chaos on the Cam"



2nd place Dan Levy - "Master under cover"

Aayush Sonthalia for both “A fly on the wall” and “April Showers”. Commended certificates were awarded to Dyah Pritadrajati for “Across the Quadrangle” and to Michael Siu for three of his entries, “Prospect”, “Rigour” and “Sea of thoughts”.

## PRIZE WINNERS

### **1st place Dan Levy – “Downing M1 – Chaos on the Cam”**

This was a superb action photograph showing Downing M1 in the midst of a mêlée during the Bumps. Not a great deal of pre-planning of such an image can be made. The photographer has just to be in the right place at the right time with a suitable camera and lens pre-set with the correct exposure and shutter speed and press the button at exactly the right moment. The judges commented that it would have been an even better image if the cox had been wearing a magenta waterproof!

### **2nd place Dan Levy – “Master under cover”**

This was another image where the photographer was in the right place at the right time. The image is of the Master walking across the quad with snow falling and his face partially obscured by an umbrella which is his only protection against the snow.



3rd place Aayush Sonthalia – “Snow courts”

**3rd place Aayush Sonthalia – “Snow courts”**

This near monochromatic image of the snow-covered college tennis courts viewed through the dark ice-covered mesh of the surrounding fencing gripped the judges’ attention with its starkness and simplicity.

**HIGHLY COMMENDED****Natalie Haslam - “Art exists outside the Gallery”**

This was a cleverly composed image taken in New Court with the in-focus catkins on an Alder Tree in the foreground and the out-of-focus but still recognisable Heong Gallery in the background.

**Dan Levy – “Little Red Riding Student”**

Presumably taken on the same day as “Master under cover”, this image of a just discernibly red-headed and red-coated female walking through college in front of the Chapel was very evocative of Downing on a snowy day. The falling snow made the overall image look slightly out of focus, but the effect was to enhance the impact of the image.

**Aayush Sonthalia – “A fly on the wall”**

This fly(?)-eye image included some good contrasting bold colours of the deep blue sky, the pale purple Wisteria blossom and the orange-buff driveway.

**Aayush Sonthalia – “April Showers”**

The photographer achieved the difficult task of correctly exposing both the foreground pink blossom and the rainbow. Cropping of some of the sky and perhaps darkening the sky above the rainbow might have created a more dynamic image.

**COMMENDED****Dyah Pritadrajiti – “Across the quadrangle”**

This was another snowy day image, this time of the East Range and Master’s Lodge with the Catholic Church steeple in the distance making this a uniquely Downing image.

**Michael Siu – “Prospect”**

This image was of a much-photographed view of the Chapel and East Range taken across newly mowed lawns from somewhere near A Staircase, the shadows indicating that this was taken in the evening. Nevertheless, it is a striking image which could have been further improved by cropping out a large portion of the foreground lawn.

**Michael Siu - “Sea of thoughts”**

This image of a bird in the middle of the lawns with longish grass looking rather sea-like was well seen. It could have been better exposed with some of the image being burned out and under exposed and lacking detail in the trees.

**Michael Siu - “Prudence”**

Whilst not obviously of Downing (unless it is a known Downing Cat) this image of a cat on a window ledge peering carefully around the window brought smiles to the faces to all the judges.

**EDITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This publication, combining *The Association Newsletter*, *Magenta News* and *The College Record*, is built on contributions from students, past and present, Fellows, and College staff. Zoe Barber (Fellow), Assistant Editor, *The College Record*, collects contributions from current students and the Fellowship as well as, with the College Secretary, compiling the list of the Fellowship which changes from year to year. From the College departments Sarah Pickard, Academic Registrar, with her colleagues, gives us the list of joining students, academic awards and the Colours and Blues. Claire Varley and Susan Esden from the Development Office have kept us in touch with the alumni database and edited *Magenta News*. An Editorial Committee of Neville Tait (1962), Barrie Hunt (1966), David Lloyd Jones (1970), John Hicks (1955), Peter Thomson (1953), Frank Weiss (1950) and Catherine Middleton, Interim Development Director advised on content. Peter Whittington (1962), Barrie Hunt (1966), Karen Storey (1982) and Zoe Barber have helped with proof reading.

## COLLEGE NEWS

## THE MASTER WRITES:

They say that the best forecast for the weather tomorrow is the same as today. And yet even Downing is susceptible to change, and change is a recurring theme in my Magentan essays.

Relatively little may have occurred here in the 19th century, but the 21st is quite another period. We are, in particular, increasingly alert to social developments. The admission of students is prominent in our minds, and our agreed policy is to seek those who will profit most from the academic environment of Cambridge University. A great deal of thought is devoted to achieving diversity and balance in the student body across matters including gender, subject, background, and under/post-graduate. Many readers will know that our 'special area' is Cornwall, Devon, and Dorset, and our admissions staff maintain an active programme of visits to schools and institutions there. The admissions debate between University and government is ongoing as I write, and I understand that we are not yet assured of the right to call ourselves a "University" in October.

(Between paragraphs, I sat through an excellent performance of *The Merchant of Venice*, which is currently in production in the East Lodge Garden. The annual Cambridge Shakespeare Festival has sent us a big one this year, and the crowds are profiting from excellent weather for picnics. It provides food for thought to sit through a classic work that sails so closely to the winds of current social issues – Shylock, judged by the cross-dressing Portia.)

Another area of change is in the Master's Lodge, where the incumbent is moving house. I am regularly asked a number of questions on recurring themes as my Mastership draws to a close, but only rarely "what have you achieved?" My pursuit of ambition and momentum may have tired some elements of the College, but I hope the message has flourished. It is neither required nor expected that all students obtain a top first, but rather that our graduates have done their best in their activities of choice, be they academic, sporting, cultural, or social. A number of examples of success are referred to later in this article.

Cultural activities continue to flower at Downing. The Heong Gallery is now in its third year of existence and is well on the way to graduation as a mature institution. The College is currently considering how best to underwrite its future in the visual arts, while ensuring that it serves members of the College as a venue for cultural activities. We have had glorious exhibitions in 2017-18 of work by Elisabeth Frink and our Honorary Fellow Stephen Chambers. The Frink sculpture was wonderful and yet shocking to behold, with its wild birds and Walking Madonna. Stephen, in contrast, brought us his mythical Court of Redonda: portraits of personages awarded titles by the Redondan King (the title

is disputed, and Wikipedia currently lists two Kings). We congratulate Stephen on his appointment as Viscount Biennale of Redonda.

On the subject of sculpture, the Domus will soon acquire the work *Two Forms (Divided Circles)* by Barbara Hepworth, which will be situated in the East Lodge Garden opposite the window of The Heong Gallery. I have always felt our estate perfect for the display of sculpture, and it is an honour to begin with such a prominent work. This marks a deepening of our relationship with the Hepworth Estate, and we are most grateful to Sophie Bowness for the continuing kindness of the Hepworth/Bowness family.

A great musical stride has been taken with the appointment of David Lowe as our first ever Director of College and Chapel Music. David is a distinguished singing teacher, who 'takes over the baton' from Christopher Robinson. In truth he will do that only rarely, since his role in the Chapel is more that of an *eminence* than of a dedicated choral director or organist: the podium and loft will mostly be occupied by our organ scholars, within a choral structure that has served the generations well over a number of decades. David will also be an *animateur* of College music, in which role he will work in close contact with the Musical Society. Do keep your eyes and ears open for future events, and for opportunities to reawaken allegedly dormant skills.

This is a special year for all people and things 'Howard'. The theatre continues as a centre for drama in Cambridge, and increasingly for music also. The Howard Foundation has reported promising research on the control of Alzheimer's disease. Meanwhile, we have recently celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alan Howard's admission to Downing. As a bit of a numerologist, that causes me to reflect that just three spans of 70 years would take us right back to the period of our Foundation. To all our alumni who matriculated in the 1940s, I offer the sincerest congratulations and best wishes of the College.

The Senior Tutor reports later in this edition on the examination results of members of the College, and I will not steal his thunder. In brief, there have been many distinguished performances by individuals, and many prizes justly awarded. The overall movement of the College is upwards on academic results, and I congratulate all our students on their achievements.

For some years, Colleges have compared their results via the so-called Baxter and Tompkins Tables. Such tables have been rightly viewed with caution: they are over-sensitive to minor fluctuations in fortunes and are based upon fragile assumptions. The University has now resolved to allow students an easy opt-out from the public class lists, and it appears that more than 35% of students have availed themselves of this option. The public class lists are now seriously incomplete, and this prevents a proper publishable analysis. The ball is now with individual Colleges to decide how they wish to measure their performances. Some Downing alumni may be sympathetic to an analysis that incorporates elements such as rowing and rugby.

It has been an unusual yet rewarding year for our Alumni and Development Team. Under the guidance of our Interim Development Director, Catherine Middleton, there has been a good deal of activity involving alumni and alumnae, in College and elsewhere. I have particularly enjoyed meeting old members in Shanghai, Beijing, and Tokyo, and hearing their personal news. Such gatherings can reveal interesting connections – in Tokyo, I enjoyed a warm reunion with a school friend whom I last met in Summer 1968. It will be *all change* next year, as we welcome Jo Finnie Jones as our incoming Director of Advancement. The Fellowship looks forward to working with Jo, who will take over the reins of Development (with Catherine staying on as Director of Engagement Development Operations). Meanwhile, Gabrielle Bennett is again working with Cambridge, and is now based in New York with Cambridge in America.

(I am grateful to Jeremy Manger, Junior President of the Griffins, for helping me with the following report on College sport.) It has been a particularly excellent year for sport. Our students have gained Blues in Rugby, Rowing, Squash, Cricket, Ice Hockey, Karate, Basketball, Boxing, Athletics, Lacrosse, Cheerleading, and Half Blues in Trampoline, Athletics, Dancesport, Ice Hockey, Gymnastics, Badminton, Ultimate Frisbee, Clay Pigeon Shooting, in addition to membership of other University teams from Equestrian and Polo to Powerlifting. This diversity demonstrates the huge and broad contributions made by College members to Light Blue sport.

In inter-Collegiate sport, we won the Michaelmas league in Men's Hockey and the Cuppers Plate in Rugby. The Boat Club had a tough time in this year's May Bumps, but showed excellent promise and commitment, and they will be pushing hard next year. A striking thing about College sport is the breadth of our success, with Mixed Lacrosse moving up a league, and all the other clubs thriving, from Ultimate Frisbee to Netball and Cricket. Downing plays sport at the very highest level, while also making college-level sport accessible to all. This is a balance to be maintained over the years to come.

The Griffins club continues to support Downing athletes with funding for their sporting endeavours, via the Alumni Fund (see page 267 for details). While Downing is highly successful in individual sports, there is also a strong sense of unity, with all clubs supporting and celebrating the successes of others.

Our big rowing news is the completion of our 'Cambridge Rowing Tank'. This major facility is available to local clubs at all levels, and is already popular and generating notable revenue. It has been built with the aid of funds donated by alumni, alumnae, and Segreants, and has gained national recognition in *The Times*.

Turning to Fellowship news, we have greeted new Fellows Zoe Kourtzi (Neuroscience) and Nick Rawlinson (Earth Sciences), as well as our third Morgan Fellow, Ariel Gomez (Computer Science). Zoe is our new Angharad Dodds John Fellow in Mental Health and Neuropsychiatry. Nick's father, David Rawlinson (English, 1954), was a student at Downing under Frank Leavis.

Congratulations are due to Marta Correia and Kristjan on the birth of Sofia, to Harriet Groom and Liam for Felix, to Alicia Hinarejos and Michael for Anna, and to Ellen Nisbet and Michael for Edward.



New Fellows Zoe Kourtzi and Nick Rawlinson

Our third Foundation Fellow, Alwyn Heong (Medicine and Archaeology, 1979), was elected in November in recognition of his great generosity to the College, and especially his support of The Heong Gallery. We were delighted to welcome Caroline Wilson (Law, 1989) to an Honorary Fellowship. Confidence was expressed at her ceremony of admission that, with her on the bridge at the Foreign Office in the role of Europe Director, light (if not power) will soon be restored across the Channel.

We lose to retirement David Feldman, Rouse Ball Professor of English Law, but we hope he will continue to be prominent at lunch as an Emeritus Fellow.



Priyanka Joshi, Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, and Stuart Peach

Fellows and members have received a greater number of significant tokens of recognition than can be listed here. I mention only a few: our former Master, Barry Everitt, has been named the next President of the Society for Neuroscience; Graham Virgo (Law, 1984) has been appointed Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University; *Vogue* Magazine has named

Priyanka Joshi as one of the 25 most influential women working in Britain in 2018; Syed Mansoor Ali Shah (Law, 1989) has been appointed to the Pakistan Supreme Court. Lastly, but clearly far from least, Stuart Peach (International and European Law, 1996) has been appointed Chairman of the NATO Military Committee.

This entry in next year's Newsletter will be written by the now Master-Elect, Alan Bookbinder. I am confident that I speak for all of us in wishing Alan the very best for his Mastership, and similarly our greetings and best wishes are extended to Vicki Ambery-Smith. What is next for Rosine and me? The Mastership has tended to push personal activities to one side. I am looking forward to returning to a number of unfinished mathematical projects, and to starting on new problems. External committees and invitations are beginning to stack up. Rosine hopes that we can spend more time in France. My harpsichord and Rosine's piano are suffering from our inattention, and our garden in Melbourn has not ceased growing during our absence.

To all members of Downing, I say farewell, thank you for having me, see you soon, and above all, *keep it up!*

## THE SENIOR TUTOR WRITES

At the time of writing, the College is looking rather scorched; the hot weather has drained the lawns of their colour and the heat makes a sedate pace much more comfortable than fits the usual mood of activity during term-time. It looks and feels as though we are at a natural pause as the College and the majority of students regroup over the long vacation. It has, as ever, been a busy year and October – by when the grass will be green again and the evenings short – feels a world away.

One of the great contradictions of Cambridge is that it is both full of tradition yet also driven, perhaps defined as a University, by new ideas and opinions. And with the current zeitgeist it has never been a worse time to make a poor argument for the status quo with the phrase "it's how we've always done it". We have rightly spent a great deal of time, both publicly and privately, questioning many of our practices including the privacy of class list information. In line with new University policy, the attentive reader will notice that we no longer publish student results in the College Record. Over a third of students now choose to keep their results private, and an incomplete published record could be more misleading than helpful.

However, I can – with great pleasure – report on the prizes that have been awarded to Downing students this year, and provide statistical reports of the overall results. The students achieved 105 first class results, with over a quarter of results being graded

as first class. All of these students received College prizes and scholarships. Nineteen individuals were awarded Foundation Scholarships for the special distinction of being awarded a First in each year of their studies at Downing. At the Governing Body, further prizes are awarded for cultural and sporting achievement alongside those purely decided on academic grounds. The Judy C Petty award, for those who have made an outstanding contribution to music and the arts while at Downing, was shared between Daniel Duffy and Ashleigh Weir. Daniel has been an energetic guitarist during his undergraduate course, organising, composing for and performing in numerous music recitals. Ashleigh was awarded the prize for contributions to the performing arts and, amongst other achievements, has been the President of the Cambridge Footlights this year.

The Pilley prize for combining academic achievement and leadership in team sports was jointly awarded to Aayush Sonthalia and Charlotte Williams (who were members of Tennis, Table Tennis, Cricket, Hockey, Netball and Lacrosse teams). The Professor Gabriel Oon Chong Jin prize has a requirement to win a Blue and gain a First; this was won by Thea Zabell who had the distinction of coming near the top of her class list in Systems Biology while rowing in the Women's Blue Boat. The Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Twining Egginton Prize in Fine Arts was awarded to Lisha Zhong; the entries for this competition grace the route to some of the administrative offices of the College and show impressive artistic talent each summer. Indeed, the decision not to display class lists in College has allowed a more extended period for display which many have greatly enjoyed. While the College's main focus will always remain on academic achievement, the combination of this with other endeavours makes the community a healthier, happier place.

At the end of the summer we will welcome a new Master to succeed Geoffrey Grimmett. More comprehensive eulogies to his tenure will be made on other occasions, in addition to the appreciation later in this Newsletter, but, as a Senior Tutor, the time and energy he has devoted to student matters has been greatly appreciated. As a Master, he is at his most visible at the ceremonial occasions: matriculation, dinners, graduations; but the many more hours he has spent chairing and leading committees, and fostering general debates about matters of relevance and importance to the student body, are not always obvious. He has been a champion for individuals on many occasions; many of whom will be unaware of his advocacy or influence. One of Geoffrey's enduring legacies will be the way we approach music and music making in the College. Through the appointment of the esteemed Christopher Robinson as a "Mentor to the Organ Scholars" he has gently developed the way in which we retain the approach of encouraging student leadership while also allowing access to expertise and experience when needed. This approach will continue through the appointment of David Lowe as Director of College and Chapel Music, with a brief to encourage music throughout the College; and I'm looking forward to seeing his new ideas and directions take shape over the next year.

Geoffrey's successor, Alan Bookbinder, greatly impressed the Fellowship prior to his election by his thoughtful assessments of the College and I know that the alumni will find him similarly engaging. He comes to us from the Sainsburys' Trusts, following a previous career in the BBC, and I am sure that the new leadership of the College will continue to show sensitivity to both tradition and change. This is crucial as, in common with all higher education institutions, we continue to face challenges. Particular matters that continue to absorb us are ensuring that Cambridge (and Downing in particular) is seen as a realistic aspiration for talented students whatever their background, the continuing pressures on student's mental health as they study, and ensuring that we maintain a welcoming and supportive community, especially for those students who are facing difficulties. How the Fellowship and the College continues to meet these challenges will determine our success as an institution as well as our academic provision and results.

However, just when the times may feel challenging and new, there are always plenty of references to the familiar. I am writing this report following England's football World Cup semi-final defeat. Now there is another generation who will remember such a "near miss" and share a bond which I have spent the evening developing with my (devastated) nine year old son. It reminded me that these (hopefully more positive) communal experiences – and lifelong memories – are not the rarity of a World Cup, but are the currency of student experience at Downing, and will always continue to be. The normalcy rather than rarity of such experiences – academic, cultural, social and athletic - is what makes Downing very special.

## THE ASSISTANT BURSAR'S REPORT

**Currently, the colour of the lawns is not an exact match for the College buildings but, with the last meaningful rainfall in Cambridge being recorded towards the end of May, they are only a few shades away. Not the only challenge the lawns have had to face, but more of that later.**

No large building projects on the Domus this year. Building activity has been concentrated by the River where the Boathouse facilities have undergone a major refurbishment at the same time as the College constructed Cambridge's first indoor rowing tank. Already in use by clubs across the city, the hope is that this unique facility will enable local rowers to hone their craft as well as providing an opportunity for a broad audience to try the sport for the first time. We have already had bookings from clubs as far away as Norwich and even York! Following in the tradition of the Howard Theatre and the Heong Gallery, this is yet another example of the College, backed as ever by our alumni and supporter community, demonstrating innovation and realisation at the highest levels.

Closer to home, the work has focussed on the refurbishment and refinement of the existing property. The Library is benefiting from new lighting and double-glazed windows to ensure that full use can be made of the space whilst remaining mindful of our energy consumption. Staircases J, P and Q have received new facilities as we continue to raise the standard of our accommodation for students and guests. Less obvious, but vital for smooth running of the College, are projects such as expansion of our card-access provision and establishment of our 'southern by-pass': resurfacing of the path behind the Lensfield Road houses to enable light-vehicle deliveries and (relatively) mud-free passage to the Dining Hall.

Visually, the greatest changes to the Domus have been brought about by our revitalised Gardens and Grounds team under the leadership of our new Head Gardener. With the College landscape masterplan to the fore, coupled with a strong sense of ecological stewardship, the team have managed the seemingly-paradoxical achievement of a Domus that appears cleaner and crisper as well as being verdant and more alive. At least, when the conditions permit, and, as well as the lack of rain, a secondary challenge has been the emergence of the Chafer grub in ever increasing numbers. A food source for birds, the lawns took a bit of a battering as the jackdaws and gulls (amongst others) sought out the grubs in the top layers of the soil beneath. This was a common problem across all of the Colleges and beyond, but especially noticeable at Downing where our lawns are such a central feature. Again, stewardship is our answer, with the Gardens team lavishing care and attention on the lawns to encourage stronger growth and a more resilient surface. Lastly, on both stewardship and resilience, the College is very relieved to note that since the removal, last summer, of the London Plane trees outside B staircase, the front of the West Range has started settling back in the right direction with cracks closing in ceilings and walls, and precautionary props now being removed.

This summer, the College Computer Room will relocate and the building, bordering the Rose Garden, will be converted into an office and practice room to accommodate the newly-appointed Director of College and Chapel music. Just next door, the next stage of the 'study gardens' arising from the masterplan will see the redevelopment of the East Lodge Garden. An additional enhancement will be the installation of 'Two Forms (Divided Circle)', a sculpture by Barbara Hepworth, kindly loaned to the College by the Hepworth/Bowness family.

Another unexpected, but very welcome, addition is the recent purchase of the house at 26 Lensfield Road. A project to convert this, the last of the Lensfield Road houses bordering the Domus (Doctor's surgery aside), will run over the course of the year to provide student rooms ready for occupation in Michaelmas 2019. By which time, hopefully, the lawns will have recovered – weather (and Chafer grubs) permitting.

## THE INTERIM DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This academic year has seen Downing celebrate 300 years of giving since the signing of the Founder's Will in 1717.

It has been a year of some challenge and transition for the Development Office, which has remained without a permanent Director of Development for this period. Despite this setback, and thanks to the momentum gained in previous years, fundraising income for the year has increased by over 10% to £2.8 million. This success was in part due to two significant gifts – one from Dr Kim Silverman (Research Fellow at Downing from 1985-88) to create the Kim and Juliana Silverman Research Fellowship in the Sciences and a legacy from the estate of Mrs Barbara Poulton, whose late husband Ken read Mathematics and Mechanical Engineering at Downing from 1935-38. Many other alumni and friends supported Downing this year, giving generously to enhance the student experience by funding the supervision system, relieving student financial hardship, and contributing to the Downing Arts Fund in particular.

The annual telephone campaign took place in September for the first time, having migrated from its traditional slot in April and raised a heart-warming £275,000. A new donors' group, the 1717 Patrons, honours those that have given key support to the Heong Gallery and will be broadened to include supporters of other initiatives.

Many of you - almost 2,000 alumni and friends in fact – attended 29 events both in College and further afield, in Australia, China and the US, helping to host reunions and bring the Downing spirit to various other occasions, from drinks in Sydney to carol singing in London.

Some have also chosen to remember Downing in their wills. The College's 1749 Society, which recognises the generosity of legacy donors, now has 276 members, which itself is noteworthy in this special anniversary year – all we need is for another 24 alumni to make a legacy pledge before 21 December 2018 and we'll have a magical 300 members in our 300th year! Please do get in touch with the Development Office if you can help us reach this target.

Plans to continue the transformational impact that the Catalysis fundraising campaign has had on the College continue to be forged. These discussions have led to the re-organisation of the Development Office and the appointment of new senior development staff to join long-serving team members Susan Esden and Claire Varley, both of whom have worked tremendously hard to maintain the Development Office's roster of activity throughout this year. A newly-formed team will be making every effort both to continue and extend the College's engagement with alumni, friends, Fellows, students and staff. The College is extremely grateful for your support and commitment and for all that you do for current and future students.

## A CHANGE AT THE HELM

On 30 September, Professor Geoffrey Grimmett retires after five years as Master. In December, the College announced the appointment of the new Master, Mr Alan Bookbinder, a profile of him appears on page 32. Firstly, we have received an appreciation of the Master.

## AN APPRECIATION OF PROFESSOR GEOFFREY GRIMMETT

This year completes the five-year Mastership of Professor Geoffrey Grimmett. It has been an eventful half-decade for Downing, with many developments in the buildings and gardens and in the scholarly community which flourishes here.



Professor Geoffrey Grimmett  
FRS (2015) by Stuart  
Pearson Wright

The Master would have also wished to rescue us from the chafer bugs under the lawn and the uncertainties brought by the Brexit vote, but nevertheless leaves Downing in a strong position to meet the future.

Geoffrey joined us from Churchill College, and was the first Master from outside the Fellowship in the 21st century. He brought a valuable set of perspectives and experiences to the running of the College, asking insightful questions and provoking new discussions about old practices. This included setting up Working Parties to redevelop the College website, to re-evaluate our library facilities, and to discuss our provision for the ever-growing community of graduate students.

He has brought warmth, humour, and a lively, wide-ranging intellect to the many important occasions where he has presided. Most of us who deliver lectures and speeches within annual cycles tend to reuse much of our material, and to settle into well-worn, familiar phrases. Geoffrey, remarkably, finds something new to say on every occasion. Even when inviting groups of first-years to drinks in the Master's Lodge during the evenings of the Michaelmas term, he would come up with a new approach each time, pointing out a curious detail of one of the paintings in the Drawing Room or relating a new anecdote about life in Downing. Of course, his own subject of mathematics is woven smoothly into all of his thinking, and he took great delight on arrival in reminding us that Downing's famous architect, William Wilkins, was a mathematician. Geoffrey and Rosine have taken a genuine pride in the College and have enjoyed welcoming new members, showing great warmth on occasions such as matriculation ceremonies and visits to the Master's Lodge.

In his formal administrative duties as Master, Geoffrey has been tireless in his preparation for meetings, and has encouraged the flow of ideas while always seeking consensus. When confronted by an enormous body of financial paperwork, or a detailed specialist report, one could guarantee that Geoffrey had considered these thoroughly and had found a telling question. From attention to principles came the renewal of documents central to the College's identity, such as the Statutes and Ordinances, and Downing's website, both of which were brought up to date. Geoffrey also took a keen interest in the Domus during a period of major building projects, notably the new First Court and Battcock Lodge, the interior remodelling of the Howard Building, and refurbishment of Tazaki House on Lensfield Road. Geoffrey's special contribution here has been to direct attention to the estate as well as buildings, an initiative now brought to fruition in the new East Lodge and Library Gardens, and in improvements in the Master's Garden, where Rosine's green fingers have been much in evidence. Somehow, amid all the meetings and projects, Geoffrey found the energy to travel widely on the College's behalf, including trips to the US, south-east Asia and Japan.

The past five years have been a period of success for the College academically. During Geoffrey's Mastership the proportion of Downing students awarded Firsts reached 25 per cent in three out of four years, a level not previously attained, with over 100 Firsts in those years, also a record. Geoffrey's concern for academic excellence is encapsulated by the example of Yang Li (m. 2011), who came top of the entire university in Part II Mathematics in 2014, thus becoming the College's first ever Senior Wrangler. Providing Yang Li with advice and guidance during his time here, Geoffrey took delight in his outstanding achievements, presenting him with a special medal on the Governing Body's behalf. There have also been innovations at graduate level, with the establishment of the new position of MCR Liaison Fellow, currently held by Philip Rubery, intended to facilitate interaction between the Fellowship and the College's graduate community. Geoffrey played a notable role in the setting up of a new category of titular Fellow, the Morgan Fellow (named after the former Master, Morien Morgan), intended to be held by a small number of outstanding postdoctoral researchers from external institutions, such as Microsoft Research. The College has benefited considerably from the interactions which these initiatives have stimulated.

Music is especially close to Geoffrey's heart. He joined us as the new Chapel organ was being ordered, and presided over the celebrations of its inauguration. He saw this as an ideal opportunity to raise the profile of music in Downing. He began by bringing in Dr Christopher Robinson, former Director of Music at St John's, to serve in his retirement as Mentor to the Downing Organ Scholars. The success of this arrangement paved the way for the appointment of our first ever Director of College and Chapel Music. In the Lodge, Geoffrey enthusiastically continued the tradition of hosting recitals for the Music

Society. He also gathered harpsichord experts from far and wide to enjoy masterclasses led by Sophie Yates, along with historically authentic lessons in dancing to baroque keyboard music.

Geoffrey had the good fortune to come to the College as the new Heong Gallery was being completed. Aided and encouraged by Rosine, he participated extensively in what Trevor Robbins has termed Downing's 'cultural explosion', contributing forewords to each of the exhibition catalogues and leading the formalities at each private view. But Geoffrey's role went further, as shown by the display of an important collection of works of modern British art in the Master's Lodge, on loan from the Fitzwilliam Museum and originally given to the Museum by the Honorary Fellow and alumnus, Sir Alan Bowness (1950). Twice, indeed, much to Geoffrey's pride and satisfaction, works were borrowed from the Lodge for display in the Gallery, including the College's Constable. Geoffrey and Rosine's appreciation of artistic talent was especially shown by their befriending of Stuart Pearson Wright, the artist commissioned to paint Geoffrey's official portrait as Master. The finished work captures, with great exactitude, a familiar face and spirit.

As a former Olympic fencer, Geoffrey brought a remarkable athleticism to his role. He could often be seen in his running gear, speeding in and out of the College. He would return from vacations with accounts of adventures in remote mountain ranges. He supported the Boat Club energetically, racing down the tow path on his bicycle. Even the more sedate task of keeping an eye on our building projects saw him climbing up cranes and scaffolding.

Alongside all his immediate duties as Master, Geoffrey has never lost sight of the longer view. He developed a fondness for Stanley French's history of the College (1984), and was instrumental in making it available electronically on the new website. He provided much encouragement to Tim Rawle on his new architectural history (2015), and has liaised closely with the College Archivist, Jenny Ulph, about historical anniversaries, notably the 300th anniversary of the signing of Sir George Downing's will. Collectively, Geoffrey's efforts have ensured that, as the College has renewed itself, it has done so in awareness of its deeper history and of the features that characterize its distinctive identity. One may see this, rightly, as a measure of Geoffrey's commitment to Downing, as clearly shown by his enthusiastic participation in College life, and evident pride in individual and collective achievements. As his thoughts turn to retirement, there can be little doubt that Geoffrey will approach that next phase of life with the same indomitable energy. There will be further opportunities in the coming months for the Fellowship to congratulate Geoffrey and Rosine, and to send our good wishes for the future. Here, collectively, the College expresses its deep and continuing gratitude to Geoffrey for all his work and efforts over the past five years, and wishes him a long and fulfilling retirement.

## A PROFILE OF MR ALAN BOOKBINDER



### **Where did you grow up, family, educational background?**

I was born in Bristol, but we moved around the country when I was a child, as my father was a Home Office psychologist working in prisons. We eventually settled in Manchester, where I went to the Grammar School during the week and Old Trafford (both varieties) at weekends.

I read Russian and History at Oxford, including an immersive year abroad at a provincial university in the Soviet Union. A Harkness Fellowship then took me to Harvard, where I did an M.A. at the Russian Research Center.

### **Career to date?**

After Harvard I joined the BBC as a graduate trainee and stayed for 26 years, as a television producer, editor and eventually head of department.

I then spent 12 years as the Director of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, overseeing a wide range of philanthropic activity.

### **What has your work involved?**

At the BBC I spent much of the 1980s in Russia and Poland, as communism gradually lost its grip and then suddenly collapsed. I made documentaries in Africa and Japan, before editing the BBC2 anthropology series "Under the Sun." My last role was as Head of Religion & Ethics, a role I took up a few weeks before 9/11, which propelled religion to the top of the political agenda.

With the Sainsburys I was responsible for charitable spending of around £120 million a year in the arts, scientific and medical research, the environment, and disability.

### **What is the most memorable aspect of your career?**

Working as a producer on the BBC TV series "Comrades" in 1985; these were the first fly-on-the-wall documentaries to be made inside the Soviet Union, giving a revealing account of a previously closed society.

### **Are you planning to continue with any of your existing interests?**

Yes, I will continue my non-executive work with National Theatre and my role as a Marshall Commissioner (a Foreign Office scheme that brings high calibre U.S. graduates to study at British universities).

**Why did you want to become Master?**

After a long time away I was keen to return to the academic world, the excitement of intellectual life and the company of bright young people. Cambridge is a wonderful environment and Downing has a special place within it. I hope I can be helpful in applying my skills and drawing on my networks to help the College prosper. I want to do what I can to help foster a strong sense of common purpose and make being part of the Downing community as fruitful and enjoyable as possible for everyone.

**First impressions of Downing?**

It struck me as an open, inviting place with a strong sense of community. With its outward-looking approach it felt different from Cambridge's other cloistered colleges. In my meetings with the Fellows I found a generosity of spirit that was very appealing.

**What are you most looking forward to?**

Getting close to the Downing community – students, Fellows, staff and alumni – and building on the College's many successes. The Heong Gallery and its adventurous programme of exhibitions are especially attractive.

**What is your vision of a successful College?**

A thriving, purposeful community with a strong sense of identity and belonging. A place where academic success is valued alongside broad engagement with ideas, culture and sport. On a social level, the collegiate system gives a large and formidable university a more human scale, where friendship and intellectual curiosity can flourish, and long-term bonds can be forged.

**What do you see as your greatest challenge?**

Issues around funding will clearly be important – the debates about tuition fees, the uncertainty over research funding post-Brexit, and the ever-present need to raise funds to help us maintain high standards and realise the ambitions we all share for the College. I'm looking forward to meeting our hugely-supportive alumni and hearing their views about how best to achieve this.

**What are your favourite pastimes?**

Theatre, art galleries, football, Cold War novels.

## THE YEAR IN ART



© Mel Bochner, 2018

Mel Bochner, *Do I Have to Draw You a Picture?*, 2013

'DO I HAVE TO DRAW YOU A PICTURE?' is a common, if impolite, response to the frustrating experience of not being able to communicate a seemingly simple message to someone. The implication in the question is that the receiver of the message is unable to understand something the sender considers straightforward, or widely known. More than likely, by the time you have to ask 'Do I have to draw you a picture?', communication has broken down completely. The message of the work, an aquatint print by American artist, Mel Bochner (b. 1940), is at odds with the medium in which it is produced, which is anything but direct. Aquatint print-making takes the usual chemistry involved in etching a waxed metal plate, submerging it in an acid bath, inking, and then printing onto dampened paper, to another level of complexity with further steps that replace the lines of an etching with the uncertain, watery lines of a brushstroke or spraypaint. Therefore, to produce such a direct, spontaneous message in an aquatint print, the artist had to work in a deliberate and premeditated way. These overlapping issues of meaning, medium and intention form the basis of our summer exhibition (16 June–7 October 2018), which brings together prints by American and British artists from The British Museum and private lenders on the theme of communication. Artists include Louise Bourgeois, Jenny Holzer, Jasper Johns, Glenn Ligon, Eduardo Paolozzi, Grayson Perry, Kay Rosen, Ed Ruscha, Wolfgang Tillmans and many more.

As the Master pointed out in his foreword to the catalogue accompanying this exhibition, this is the first time an exhibition at the Gallery has been built around a theme rather than an artist or a collection. However, a very distinct theme also underpinned our spring presentation, *The Court of Redonda* by Stephen Chambers RA (24 February–20 May 2018). The 102 panel 'portraits' that make up the work represent courtiers of a utopian court, men and women who lack the usual attributes of the powerful, but who, in their sheer diversity, represent an alternative to the usual faces of power. The exhibition provided opportunities to explore the notions of ideal communities and different forms of community organisation through our regular student-run Heong Gallery Arts programme. We were also able to take Stephen to a St Bede's Inter-Church School to talk to 190 Year 7 students about the life of an artist, and our own Dr Michael Bravo shared Inuit visions of the polar world with us in two workshops designed to juxtapose western notions of cartography, travel and habitation against those of the Inuit peoples of North America, who have their own relationship to these remote lands. Stephen Chambers explained his own response to Brexit and the literary 'Kingdom of Redonda', based on an island in the Leeward Islands of the Caribbean, in a Q&A with journalist and broadcaster, Alastair Sooke, in the Howard Theatre.

In the preceding exhibition, *Dame Elisabeth Frink: Larger than Life* (4 November 2017–6 February 2018), there were themes aplenty, with Frink's lifelong views on war and the effects of violence on the psyche, writ large on the bronzes lent to us by alumnus Chris Bartram (*Land Economy*, 1968). The first major presentation of sculpture at the gallery brought with it its own design challenges, met robustly by gallery architects Caruso St John, who pitched in with placement and plinth designs, making the works resonate in a way they have never done before in a museum setting. Apart from a rich Arts After Dark programme and printing and modelling workshops, the exhibition also made a major academic contribution to the understanding of Frink's life and work with the first ever symposium dedicated to her. We heard from Annette Ratuszniak (Curator, Frink Estate), Calvin Winner (Senior Curator, Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts), Kip Gresham (Master Printmaker), Victoria Avery (Keeper, Applied Arts, Fitzwilliam Museum), Andrew Lacey (Sculptor and Founder), and Sarah Kennedy (Fellow in English, Downing College). Videos of all the presentations and the discussion after were uploaded to the Gallery's Youtube channel, where anyone in the world with an internet connection can view them.

We hope that some of you have joined us to experience our exhibitions over the last two years. If not, make this the year to visit the Heong Gallery, your gallery, and see College in a whole new light.

**Dr Prerona Prasad**  
Exhibitions and Programming Manager

The **Heong Gallery** is open:  
Wednesdays to Sundays 12 noon – 5 pm.



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*Dame Elisabeth Frink: Larger Than Life* (4 November 2017 – 6 February 2018)



© Downing College, 2018

*Stephen Chambers: The Court of Redonda* (24 February – 20 May 2018)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Full details of the activities available and an online booking form may be found on the Events link given below. A booking form for the Alumni Day and Annual Dinner is also included in this *Newsletter*.

### Dates already arranged for 2018-19 include:

1968 Reunion	Sat 15 September
Year Reps' Meeting and Dinner	Fri 21 September
1988 Reunion	Fri 21 September
Alumni Day & Association Dinner	Sat 22 September
London Reception	Thurs 1 November
Advent Carol Service	Thurs 29 November
Tailgate party for Varsity Rugby Match	Thurs 6 December
Mathias Dinner	Sat 2 February
Annual Reunion Dinner (pre-1957/59/69/79/89/99/09)	Fri 5 April – Sun 7 April
Segreants' Dinner	Sat 27 April
MA Day including lunch	Sat 18 May
Donors' Garden Party	Sat 15 June
DCBC May Bumps Marquee	Sat 15 June
1961 Reunion Dinner	Sat 22 June

### And for 2019-20

Year Reps' Meeting and Dinner	Fri 27 September
Alumni Day & Association Dinner	Sat 28 September

The information above should be treated as provisional at this stage. Full details and online booking will be posted as they become available on <http://www.downingcambridge.com>

## VISITING CAMBRIDGE

### Visiting Downing

People who have been undergraduates or graduates at Downing are now known as Members Out of Residence and are most welcome to visit Downing at any time when it is open. Limited parking is available and to make arrangements please telephone the Porters' Lodge on 01223 334800.

**Disabled Access**

While many of the older College rooms are not easy to access, those with mobility problems should note that both the Howard Building and the Howard Theatre are fully accessible at all levels to those in wheelchairs. The Hall, SCR and West Lodge public rooms may be reached by ramps from the Howard Court and suitable bedroom accommodation is available in both Howard Lodge and Kenny A. It is possible to get to all these locations from the Porters' Lodge along made-up roads and paths, apart from a short (5m) stretch of gravel by the Howard Building. The Porters' Lodge has wheelchair access via a ramp at the rear of that building.

**Dining in College**

Downing members in the categories below who are out of residence are welcome to dine at High Table twice in each full term and may bring with them one guest.

On the first occasion, dinner will be free of charge for the alumnus, although guests' meals will be charged for. On the second occasion, both meals will be charged for.

You are eligible to dine at High Table if you meet one of the following criteria:

- you have a Cambridge BA or any other Cambridge postgraduate degree, and 19 terms have passed since you matriculated at Cambridge
- you have a Cambridge MA
- you have a Cambridge postgraduate degree or qualification and have reached the age of 24 years.

Places at High Table may be booked through the Catering Office, by telephone on 01223 746709 or by email to [dining@dow.cam.ac.uk](mailto:dining@dow.cam.ac.uk).

**Staying in College**

Alumni who wish to stay in College may book guest rooms, subject to availability, by telephoning the Accommodation Office on 01223 762063 or by contacting them by email at [accommodation@dow.cam.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@dow.cam.ac.uk).

If you would like to hold business or private meetings in College, please visit the Conference Office's website, <http://www.downing-conferences-cambridge.co.uk>, for further information.

### Visiting Other Colleges

The CAMcard is issued free of charge by the Cambridge University Development and Alumni Relations Office to all alumni who have matriculated and studied at Cambridge. It identifies you as a member of the University, allowing you and up to three guests to visit most of the Cambridge colleges on the Backs and King's College Chapel, when they are open, without paying an entrance fee.

In addition to giving you automatic membership at the University Centre, the CAMcard entitles you to various discounts, including those on accommodation charges in some local hotels, money off at local restaurants and bars and 20% off at the Cambridge University Press Bookstore.

For further information telephone or write to the Development and Alumni Relations Office, 1 Quayside, Bridge Street, Cambridge, CB5 8AB. Tel. 01223 332288, email [contact@alumni.cam.ac.uk](mailto:contact@alumni.cam.ac.uk) or visit <http://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/benefits/camcard>.



Natalie Haslam – “Art exists outside the Gallery” – Highly Commended  
Downing Alumni Photographic Competition



## FROM THE ARCHIVIST

## UNRAVELLING THE MYSTERY OF SIR BUSICK HARWOOD'S BEDFELLOW

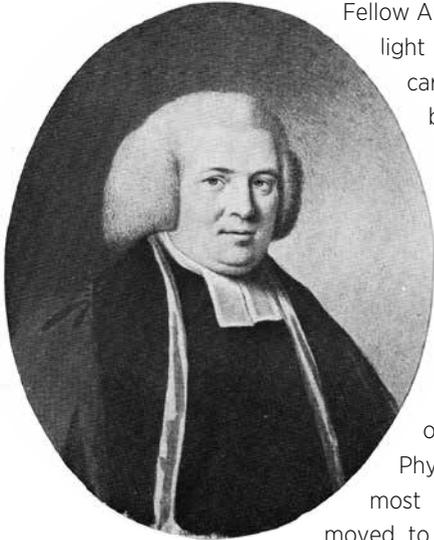
Several months' ago I was asked to provide some additional background information relating to an interesting item bought at auction by **Robert Frew (1969)** who forwarded it to **Bill Holloway (1969)** who sent it to us on the basis that it would of interest to a wider audience. At first glance, this seemed straightforward enough. The James Gillray cartoon in question, 'Matins at D-wn-ng College', shown opposite, is relatively well-known and we have several copies in the College archive and picture collection. However, in checking the details I accidentally stumbled across something of a mystery, which led to a surprising discovery...

Gillray's cartoon, published in 1810, features Sir Busick Harwood, Downing's first Professor of Medicine, smoking a pipe in bed with a companion commonly believed to be his wife, Lady Harwood, on a lazy morning. The National Portrait Gallery's own catalogue identifies Sir Busick's companion as Lady Elizabeth Harwood.<sup>1</sup> The cartoon is thought to be an amusing reference to the fact that Downing College, ten years after its foundation, consisted only of the East Lodge and partially built Master's Lodge, with no Chapel (or students!). In 1810, when the cartoon was published, the Harwoods, living in the East Lodge built for the Professor of Medicine, were the only residents in the College and Sir Busick's own eventual resting place beneath the Paddock is a lasting reminder of the long – and eventually permanent – absence of William Wilkins' intended South Range Chapel. Compulsory attendance at 'divine service' was enshrined in the College's 1805 Statutes (Number XII) but the College was the first to be built in Cambridge without a Chapel, and so the common interpretation of Gillray's depiction of a lazy 'Matins' in the College in those early years made a lot of sense.

However, while checking references online for Gillray's cartoon, I came across a long-forgotten reference in a digitised copy of Sir Humphrey Rolleston's 'The Cambridge Medical School: A Biographical History' which, in reference to Harwood's good friend Richard Farmer (1735–1797), described him as 'a congenial spirit [who] appeared with Harwood in James Gillray's caricature "Matins at Downing College, Cambridge" (1810)'.<sup>2</sup> This statement – that the large lady in the frilly nightcap in the cartoon was not, in fact, Lady Harwood and was actually the late Master of Emmanuel, Vice-Chancellor of the University and University Librarian – was initially met with disbelief by myself and the

1 <https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/person/mp62120/sir-busick-harwood>

2 Rolleston, Sir H. D., *The Cambridge Medical School: A Biographical History*, (CUP, 1932)



Fellow Archivist. However, further digging shed some light on the possible original context of Gillray's cartoon. One of the sources for Rolleston's biographical entry on Harwood, Henry Gunning's 'Reminiscences of the University, Town and County of Cambridge', contains several insights into the friendship between the two men.<sup>3</sup> Harwood was a Fellow at Emmanuel before moving to Downing and is said to have stayed with Farmer in the Master's Lodge. In 1792, when Sir Busick Harwood published his 'Synopsis of a course of lectures on anatomy and Physiology' it was dedicated to Farmer 'by his most obedient humble servant'. After Harwood moved to Emmanuel from Christ's in 1786, Gunning

describes his evenings as 'generally spent in Emmanuel parlour, which, under the presidency of Dr Farmer, was always open to those who loved pipes and tobacco and cheerful conversation'. Gunning goes on to describe Farmer's renowned hospitality at Emmanuel: 'When Farmer became Master of his College, Emmanuel Parlour, where he always presided on a Sunday evening, became greatly celebrated; for as Sunday was the usual day for visiting the University, persons of any situation, or literary acquirement, would have considered their visit incomplete unless they shared in the hospitalities of Emmanuel Parlour, after having dined with the Vice-Chancellor'. Harwood was involved in the surprise termination of Dr Farmer's marriage proposal to a daughter of Sir Thomas Hatton, after the Baronet's death in 1787. Gunning writes that 'Farmer employed Harwood to communicate to the lady his change of sentiments. A more unsuitable ambassador could not have been selected to make a communication of so delicate a nature; though it was a prevailing opinion that Farmer could scarcely have employed a more willing envoy, as Harwood was for the most part a resident at the Lodge, and his position there must have been considerably changed by Farmer's marriage. Both Harwood and Farmer were attacked with epigrams without end...'

It has, sadly, proved difficult to locate any of the 'epigrams' referred to by Henry Gunning, although one possibility is that Gillray's 'Matins at D-w-n-ng College' was one of these, perhaps produced many years before its eventual publication in 1810. Sir Busick was

<sup>3</sup> Gunning, H., *Reminiscences of the University, Town and County of Cambridge* (London, 1854), pp.54, 151 and 183

actually designated Professor of Physic at the still-embryonic Downing College in around 1790, well before the College's Charter was finally granted in 1800, and did not marry until the year after Farmer died in 1797, so it would seem increasingly likely that the cartoon itself dates from the intervening period. This miniature of Dr Farmer (reproduced by kind permission of the Master and Fellows of Emmanuel College Cambridge) by Silvester Harding bears a strong resemblance to Sir Busick's companion in Gillray's cartoon who, in turn, looks nothing like Sir Busick's later wife, Miss Elizabeth Peshall, who is depicted in a 1788 mezzotint of the Marlborough Theatricals held by the British Museum.<sup>4</sup> A further search online uncovered an early Fitzwilliam Museum catalogue for the 1908 exhibition of Cambridge Antiquarian Society portraits, which also described Gillray's 'Matins' cartoon as depicting Harwood and Farmer, much earlier than Rolleston's reference.<sup>5</sup>

One other clue suggests that 'Matins at D-w-n-ng College' was produced during Farmer's lifetime, well before 1810. The note on the bed reading 'Sir, Be You Sick', cleverly identifies Harwood himself and is also a direct reference to relations between Sir Busick and Sir Isaac Pennington, Regius Professor of Physic at Cambridge University. Pennington and Harwood were initially on friendly terms, with Pennington reported as greeting Harwood with the joke 'Good morning Sir B. U. Sick?' to which Harwood replied 'Sir, I-sic? I was never better in my life.'<sup>6</sup> Relations between the two later deteriorated, with a well-publicised disagreement over Pennington's duties at Addenbrooke's appearing in the London and Cambridge press in 1794. The following derogatory verse is credited to William Mansel, elected Master of Trinity in 1798, who also publicly fell out with Harwood after taking exception to being seated next to a lowly undergraduate at one of Sir Busick's dinners:

'Sir Isaac, Sir Busick;  
Sir Busick, Sir Isaac;  
'Twould make you and I sick  
To taste their physic.'<sup>7</sup>

4 [http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection\\_online/collection\\_object\\_details/collection\\_image\\_gallery.aspx?assetId=328081001&objectId=1645164&partId=1](http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_object_details/collection_image_gallery.aspx?assetId=328081001&objectId=1645164&partId=1)

5 [http://www.archive.org/stream/cataloguefirste00socioog/cataloguefirste00socioog\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/cataloguefirste00socioog/cataloguefirste00socioog_djvu.txt) item 43

6 <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/003591574403701122> p44.

7 M Weatherall, *Gentlemen, Scientists and Doctors: Medicine at Cambridge, 1800-1840*, (Boydell Press, 2000), accessed at: [https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=4VsAXoqXxe4C&pg=PA25&lpg=PA25&dq=william+mansel+busick+harwood&source=bl&ots=IHQRjICGQ4&sig=vrqJG\\_3WmXUixT4XsEomhd-KvdE&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjyu4qlys3ZAhVFKFAKHSW6CjQQ6AEIRjAI#v=onepage&q=william%20mansel%20busick%20harwood&f=false](https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=4VsAXoqXxe4C&pg=PA25&lpg=PA25&dq=william+mansel+busick+harwood&source=bl&ots=IHQRjICGQ4&sig=vrqJG_3WmXUixT4XsEomhd-KvdE&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjyu4qlys3ZAhVFKFAKHSW6CjQQ6AEIRjAI#v=onepage&q=william%20mansel%20busick%20harwood&f=false)

So, it seems probable that the original meaning of Gillray's 'Matins at D-wn-ng College' – seemingly poking fun at the Professor-elect of a non-existent entity and his friend, fellow socialite and Master at Emmanuel – has been long-forgotten with the passage of time. Its publication in 1810, by which time Harwood had moved to the newly-formed and partially-built Downing, leant a different meaning to his depiction of Sir Busick Harwood and his pipe-smoking companion on a Sunday morning in a Cambridge college with no Chapel or students. The cartoon is now widely described as showing Lady Elizabeth Harwood with her husband – by auctioneers, galleries and special collections world-wide – perhaps unsurprisingly, as who would suspect 'Lady Harwood' was actually the bon-vivant Master of Emmanuel and Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University, who had died thirteen years previously!

**Jenny Ulph**

## **REMEMBERING THE FIRST WORLD WAR: ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO**

**This November, the centenary of the end of the First World War, marks the end of a project lasting four and a half years undertaken by the College Archivist to commemorate each of the Downing men who died during the war.**

Biographies of each man, featuring photographs where possible, have been researched and published on the centenary of each man's death on the Roll of Honour on the College's website (<http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/about/downing-college-archive/archives-college-history/first-world-war-roll-honour>) and in this Newsletter.

The College's First World War Memorial lists the names of 40 Downing 'Members' (students and one Fellow), but did not include the one staff member who died. I am pleased to report that the College has recently commissioned a plaque commemorating Joseph Blogg which has now been installed below the original memorial on the North Range Western Portico. The new plaque, etched in bronze and mounted on an oak panel like the original above, has been left uncoated to tarnish naturally. Blogg's biography is included below.

After so many moving stories of personal sacrifice, this project ends on a positive note: the story of the man – Charles Tyndall – who is named on the memorial, but appears to have survived the war. Researching the lives of these men has been an honour and a humbling experience and I am immensely grateful to all those – relatives, volunteers, Archivists and members of the public assisting with memorial projects across the country – who have assisted with this project. (Detailed sources, credits and additional images can be found on each biography on the online Roll of Honour at the link above).

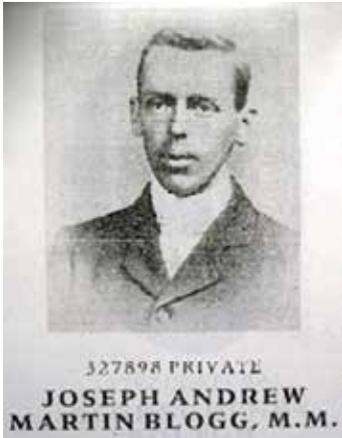


**Walter Douglas Aston (1901, Fellow 1907)**, died on 2 November 1917, aged 35.

Walter Douglas Aston was the only Downing Fellow to be killed in action. He was born on 17 March 1882, the son of Mr and Mrs Walter Aston of Worthing. He was educated at New College, Worthing, and passed the Matriculation Examination of the University of London at the age of sixteen. On leaving school he became articled to a solicitor and passed the London Intermediate Examination in Law, directed by the University Correspondence College, and was awarded an Exhibition as a result.

In 1901 he gained a Minor Scholarship and matriculated at Downing College, gaining First Classes in Parts I and II of the Law Tripos. After graduating he was awarded a Whewell Scholarship for International Law in 1906 and was elected to a Fellowship at Downing the following year. During his undergraduate days and afterwards, he was an active member of various college sports and had colours for rowing, rugby football and lawn tennis. He was also a prominent member of the Debating and Literary Societies. In 1907, Aston became a member of the Isaac Newton Lodge of Freemasons, but he resigned soon after on embracing the Roman Catholic faith. He was called to the bar in 1910, as a member of Gray's Inn. The following year, he was married in America to Carrie Olena Anderson and their two daughters were born in Cambridge. During his time as a Fellow, Aston held the offices of Steward, Librarian, Treasurer of the Amalgamated Club and Lecturer in Law.

On the outbreak of war, having previously had no military experience, he joined the C.U.O.T.C., and gave most of his time to its work. His eyesight was poor, and so it was not until April 1915 that he obtained his first commission, with the Cambridgeshire Regiment. He spent several months training and, despite his short-sightedness, he was a first-class shot and was musketry instructor for the 1st Battalion. He was promoted to Captain before going out to France in September 1917. Captain Aston was severely wounded in the neck on 1 November 1917 and died the next day. His obituary in 'The Griffin' reflected that he would be long remembered by all who knew him for his loyalty to his friends, his singleness of purpose and his strong sense of duty at all times. A friend wrote that his 'habit of doing the next thing in front of him, whether it was work, or a game, or a social duty (and he was good at all three) with the topmost vigour at his command, must make his an incalculable loss to a small College'. He is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery. (*Image: Downing College Archive, DCPH/1/38*)



**Joseph Andrew Martin Blogg (Cycle Cleaner and Shoe Black)**, died on 4 September 1918.

Joseph Andrew Martin Blogg was born on 25 September 1881 in Cheddington, Buckinghamshire, the son of Joseph and Sophia Blogg. The family later moved to Grantchester, near Cambridge and Joseph took up a position at Downing College as a cycle cleaner and shoe black. In early 1907 he married Rose Squires, a widow who may also have worked at the College, and they had two children. Following the outbreak of war, Joseph appears to have continued working at the College before enlisting in the 1/1st Cambridgeshire Regiment as a Private. The College's Governing Body minutes in June 1916 reported his enlisting and agreed that 'an allowance at the rate of £2 a quarter be paid to his wife' in his absence. Joseph went out to France, originally as a stretcher-bearer, and on 25 April 1918, he was awarded the Military Medal (awarded to those below commissioned rank) for gallantry in the field at Voormezeel. The College's Governing Body recorded their congratulations to Private Blogg when the news reached them in June 1918.

In a strange twist of fate, both Joseph and his twin brother William, also serving in France although not together, were both wounded within half an hour of each other on the morning of 28 August 1918. William survived after his leg was amputated, but Joseph died of his wounds on 4 September 1918. A pension of £2 per quarter for five years was voted for his widow by the College when they heard of his death.



Private Blogg is buried in Daours Communal Cemetery Extension in the Somme region of France. He is also remembered on war memorials in Grantchester and in St Philips Church on Mill Road in Cambridge. As the only 'College servant', or member of staff, of Downing College who died during the First World War, he was not originally named on the College's war memorial, which listed the names of 'Members' of the College (i.e. students, alumni and Fellows), although he was commemorated with these men during the College's memorial service in February 1920. A new bronze plaque in Joseph Blogg's memory now hangs below the original war memorial with the other men from the College who lost their lives. *(Image and information from <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Cambridgeshire/Grantchester.html>)*



**Guy Spencer Bryan-Brown (1904)**, died on 4 October 1917, aged 32.

Guy Spencer Bryan-Brown was born on 3 July 1885 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, the second son of Grace Margaret Bryan-Brown, and the Reverend Willoughby Bryan-Brown of Eastbourne. Guy came up to Downing College in 1904 from Tonbridge School, studying for the Theological Tripos. He followed his elder brother Willoughby (1903) and was followed himself by his younger brother Douglas in 1905. A hockey photograph, sent by the Bryan-Brown family and reproduced in this Newsletter, shows all three brothers. Guy was a fine cricketer and hockey player, and played in University Freshmen's and Seniors' matches, securing his Blue for hockey in 1908. He also represented Downing at rugby football and lawn tennis. He proceeded to his degree in 1907 and then spent a year 'in ascetic seclusion' at Ridley Hall reading for Holy Orders and qualifying for a Teaching Diploma. In 1908 he was appointed to a Mastership at Trinity College, Glenalmond, and was ordained in 1909 before proceeding in 1913 to Christ's College, Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand, as Chaplain-Master. There he continued his sporting interests, representing Canterbury in cricket.

In 1913 Reverend Bryan-Brown became Chaplain to Christ's College Cadet Corps, and Chaplain to the Forces (4th Class) with the New Zealand Chaplains Department in March 1914. In the Christmas holidays of 1916-17 he was at Trentham Training Camp and was assigned as Temporary Army Chaplain (and Captain) with the 21st New Zealand Expeditionary Force 21st Reinforcements and later with the 3rd Canterbury Battalion. He

returned to England briefly in early 1917, and left for the Western Front on 29 May 1917. On 6 June 1917 official records report him as 'wounded in action and remained on duty'. He was killed in action on 4 October 1917, aged 32, at Otto Farm near Ypres, during the Battle of Broodseinde (Third Battle of Ypres, Passchendaele Campaign). He was at an advanced dressing station, so full that many of the wounded had to be left outside, and while attending to the sick and wounded he was killed by a shell.

The Reverend Bryan-Brown is commemorated at Tyne Cot Memorial. A memorial stained glass window in his memory is located in the Chapel of Christ's College (New Zealand).



**Frederick Charles Davies (1903)**, died on 17 October 1917, aged 33.

Frederick Charles Davies was born in 1884, the youngest son of Mr. William Davies J.P., the first Mayor of Battersea, and his wife Ellen. He was educated at St Paul's School before matriculating at Downing in 1903 with an Entrance Scholarship, studying Natural Sciences. He was a member of the College's rugby team, graduating in 1906 and continuing his medical studies at Charing Cross Hospital, where he was house-surgeon, house-physician and medical registrar.

He went on to hold a variety of medical posts, including resident medical officer at Plaistow Fever Hospital, considered one of the most modern hospitals at the time which pioneered the barrier method of nursing infectious patients, bacteriologist of West Ham County Borough and medical officer of Battersea Tuberculosis Dispensary, 1912.

When war broke out Dr. Davies was Tuberculosis Inspector for Cambridgeshire, medical officer to the county's Insurance Committee and was also a consulting physician at Welbeck Street, London. He took a temporary commission as Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps on 10th August 1914 and within a week was at the Front. He was promoted to Captain after a year's service. He had published a number of works, and before his death was engaged on a very important treatise on trench fever, with a view to taking the MD.

Captain Davies was killed in action during the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele Campaign) on 17 October 1917, aged 33, while attached to the 9th Northumberland

Fusiliers. He is buried in Talana Farm Cemetery, but the wooden cross which originally marked his grave was relocated to the family grave in Garn cemetery, Aberystwyth. (*Image: 1903 Freshmen, courtesy of Lafayette Photography Ltd*).



**David Dewar (1912)**, died on 22 March 1918, aged 24.

David Dewar was born on 1 September 1893 in Northampton, the eldest son of the Rev. David and Annie Dewar. The family moved to Leicester and later Loughborough, where David's father was Vicar of Holy Trinity Church. David was educated at Wyggeston Grammar School for Boys from 1902 and St John's School, Leatherhead, from September 1903. He stayed there for eight years, excelling academically, before gaining an exhibition to Downing in 1912, studying Law. In his final year he was President of the Cambridge Old Johnians Society (*pictured here in 1913, courtesy of St John's School, Leatherhead*).

At Downing, David was an active member of several academic societies during his first two years. Reports of meetings of the College Debating Society in 'The Griffin' describe him as 'amusing' and 'well considered'. He was also a member of the Theological Society and presented to the College Literary Society. He was an active member of the Boat Club, reserve for the May Boat in 1913, rowing at 7 in the Trial Eights in Michaelmas 1913 and at bow in the Lent and May Boats in 1914. He is thought to have been hoping to take Holy Orders and work as a missionary in China. After the outbreak of war he joined the Cambridge University Officer Training Corps, beginning his military training while finishing his studies, and proceeded to his BA degree in 1915, also taking his LLB in the same year.

He obtained his commission as Temporary 2nd Lieutenant with the 14th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment in June 1915. In March 1916 he transferred to the Machine Gun Corps, but did not proceed to France until 7 January 1917, by which time he had been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Lt Dewar was killed in action on 22 March 1918, during the Battle of St Quentin. He was mentioned in dispatches, posthumously, on 20 May 1918. Although recorded as 'Killed in Action', David's body was not discovered until January 1922, when he was identified and buried in the British Military Cemetery at Grand-Seraucourt.



**Harold Dunkerley (1907)**, died on 23 March 1918, aged 28.

Harold Dunkerley was born in May 1889 in Bombay, India to James and Mary Dunkerley. By the time he was two years old, he was living with his paternal great-aunt and older brother, William, in Oldham, Lancashire. He attended Giggleswick School from 1898 to 1906, where he was a great all-rounder and a praeposter (senior prefect). He was a successful cricketer, captaining the 1st XI, and also won Colours in rugby. He also helped form the school's Music Society and was an active member of the Debating Society.

In 1907, Harold matriculated at Downing College studying Natural Sciences, and was an active member of College life from the start, rowing in the Boat Club Trials in his first term. He tried his hand at most college sports, excelling in many and gaining Colours in cricket, rugby football, hockey and lawn tennis. He captained the rugby XV and also made appearances in the association football team. He was also a member of the Debating Society and was profiled in 'The Griffin' as one of Downing's 'Leading Lights' in his final year, (*pictured here*) described as the 'pride of our community', whose rooms were the 'centre of the social life of the College'.

After graduating in 1910, he completed his medical studies at the London Hospital, qualifying in 1914 as M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. and working as a Clinical Assistant in the Surgical Out-patient Department from September 1914 until December, when he obtained a temporary commission as Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He married Florence Foster in London before proceeding to France on 19 May 1915 with the 8th Rifle Brigade, with whom he saw nine months' service before being wounded and invalided home. He was promoted to Captain after a year's service and, after convalescence, returned to the Front and was attached to a stationary hospital in Boulogne before serving with the North Somerset Yeomanry. He was later transferred to the 95th Field Ambulance unit, with which he served until his death (while an acting Major).

Major Dunkerley was killed in action on 23 March 1918, aged 28. He is buried in Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez.



**Cecil Harry Edmunds (1908)**, died on 23 March 1918, aged 27.

Cecil Harry Edmunds was born on 1 February 1890, the son of Alfred and Marian Edmunds of Soham, Cambridgeshire. He was educated at Soham Grammar School from the age of seven before matriculating at Downing College in 1908, studying Natural Sciences. He is pictured here in the 1908 matriculation photograph (*courtesy of Lafayette Photography Ltd*).

Cecil was an active member of the College, a member of the Debating Society and a good athlete, representing the College at both cricket and association football, although, sadly, no photographs have survived in the archive. He graduated in 1911, taking the Diploma of the University Day Training College for Teachers. On leaving Downing, he became Science Master at St Olave's School in Southwark (later of Orpington) and remained there until 1915, when he obtained a commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the 21st Battalion of the London Regiment (1st Surrey Rifles).

Cecil proceeded to France on 19 April 1917 and was promoted to Lieutenant. The German Spring Offensive began on 21 March 1918 and Lt Edmunds was reported missing in action two days later. He was later confirmed dead, leaving a widow, Constance, and young son in Broadstairs, Kent. He is buried in Fins New British Cemetery, Sorel-Le-Grand.



**William Wallis Everett (1910)**, died on 8 October 1918, aged 27.

William Wallace Everett was born on 20 September 1891, the son of William and Martha Everett of Chelsea, London. He was educated at Hertford Grammar School before matriculating at Downing College in 1910, studying Maths and Natural Sciences. He was a fine all-round athlete and represented the College regularly at cricket. He graduated in 1913 and secured a Mastership at Duke's School in Alnwick.

While in Cambridge, William had been a member of the Cambridge University O.T.C. and so, following the outbreak of war, gained a Commission as 2nd Lieutenant soon

afterwards in the Norfolk Regiment. He arrived in France on 30 August 1915 and after a considerable period, during which he attained the rank of Captain and was appointed Adjutant, he was sent back to England to instruct at a Cadet School, returning to France again early in 1918. Captain Everett was killed in action on 8 October 1918, just weeks from the end of the war, while attached to the 2nd Battalion, Norfolk Regiment. He is buried at Montbrehain British Cemetery. (*Image: 1910 Freshmen, courtesy of Lafayette Photography Ltd*).



**Henry William Huckle (1907)**, died on 5 September 1918, aged 32.

Henry William Huckle was born in 1886, the second son of Henry and Emma Huckle of Hitchin. He was educated at Hitchin Grammar School before matriculating at Downing College in 1907, studying for the Ordinary BA and specialising in Modern Languages. While at the College, Henry was an active member of the Boat Club, rowing in the 1909 Lent Boat and 2nd Boat the following year. Archive photographs survive of him in the Boat Club Trials in 1907 and 1908 and as a member of the 2nd Lent Boat, 1910 (*seen here*).

Henry did not graduate until January 1912, taking 'Specials', in English and French, in the Michaelmas 1910 and 1911. In April 1911 he was working as a teacher at the Commercial School in Cardiff and was later appointed Chief Clerk to the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board. He married Mary Porter in September 1914 and they lived in Trumpington with their two daughters. Henry enlisted as a Private with the Artists' Rifles (28th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment) in March 1917 and received his commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the Cambridgeshire Regiment on 26 February 1918.

2nd Lt Huckle was killed in action on 5/6 September 1918, only 16 days after arriving in France. He was 32 years old. He is buried in the Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension.

**George William Lyon MC [due for admission 1915]**, died on 16 April 1918, aged 21.

George William Lyon was born on 21 February 1897, the son of Mark and Eliza Lyon of Gillingham, Kent, and was educated at the Mathematical School in Rochester before gaining a Junior Scholarship at Downing for entry in 1915. Instead of coming into residence, he joined a special school of training for the Royal Engineers and obtained his commission

as 2nd Lieutenant with the Kent Fortress Company later that same year. He was later promoted to Lieutenant.

Lt Lyon was killed in action on 16 April 1918, aged 21, while attached to the 511th London Field Company and was posthumously awarded the Military Cross 'for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when entrusted with the destruction of a Royal Engineers dump'. His citation, in the Supplement to the London Gazette on 26 July 1918, goes on: 'He continued this work under heavy shell fire, and with the knowledge of the proximity of the enemy, and that the bridges behind him were being destroyed. His services were invaluable, and his courage and tenacity set a grand example to his men'. He is buried in Boves West Communal Cemetery. Sadly, no photograph has been found during this research.



CAPT. H. D. R. O'REILLY

**Henry Duncan Ryan O'Reilly [due for admission, 1914],** died 31 May 1919.

Henry Duncan Ryan O'Reilly, (or Reilly, as he is recorded on the 1901 Census and birth registration documents) was born around early 1895, the son of Irishman Henry Osborne O'Reilly and his wife Helen of Purley, Surrey. He was educated at Whitgift School where he was Captain of the School and Vice-Captain of Tate's, Editor of the Whitgiftian Magazine and also represented the School at rugby and athletics.

Henry was awarded an Exhibition to Downing College in 1914, but he never matriculated. He obtained a commission in 1st/4th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) in October 1914 and served in India from 1915 to 1917, promoted to Lieutenant in 1915 and Captain in 1917. He served in Mesopotamia from 1917 and died on 31 May 1919 as a result of wounds received in action the previous day. His Commanding Officer wrote that he "died like a gallant officer, doing everything in his power for those under his command, and displaying the utmost bravery. During the short time had been with this Regt. (1/5 East Surreys, to which he was attached at the end), he had by his cheerfulness and kindly thought endeared himself to us all, and we feel his loss most deeply".

Captain O'Reilly is buried in the Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery. (*Image courtesy of Whitgift School*).



**Kenneth David Rees [due for admission 1915]**, died on 29 August 1917, aged 21.

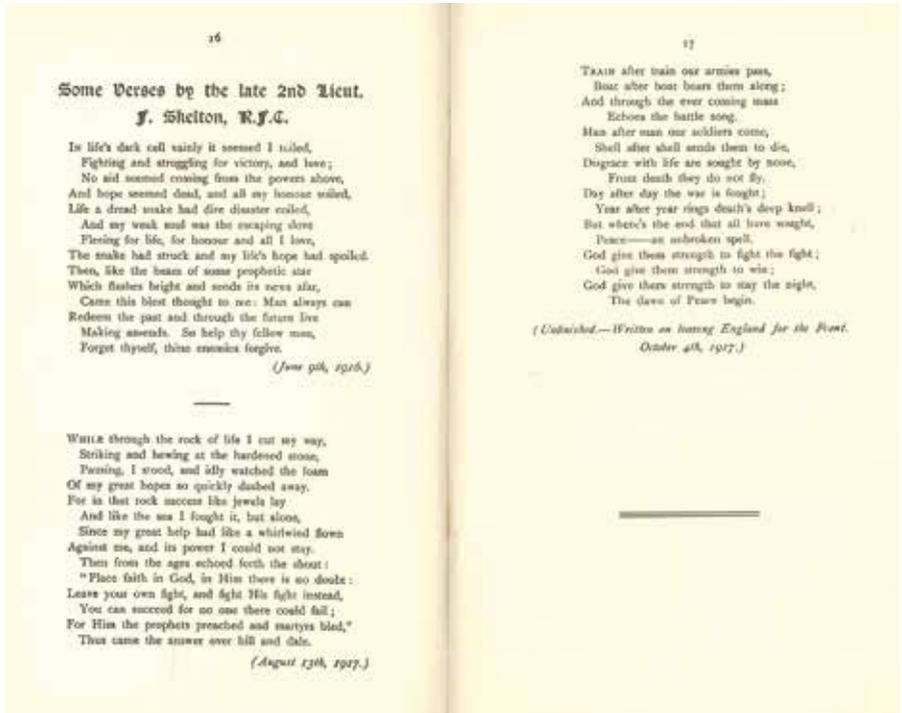
Kenneth David Rees was born on 25 August 1896 at Caerwys, Flintshire, the son of clergyman John Francis Rees and his wife Ethel. In 1910, Kenneth went to Rossall School in Fleetwood, Lancashire, by which time the family were living in the Rectory at Halkyn. Kenneth attended Rossall School from 1910 to 1915, boarding in Crescent House (*pictured here in his 1911 House photograph, courtesy of Rossall School Archives*). He was a school monitor and played in the rugby team. In 1915, he gained a Classical Scholarship to Downing College, but entered the Army instead of coming into residence, gaining his commission in the 4th Bn, Cheshire Regiment on 27 August 1915.

2nd Lt Rees went to France attached to the 5th Battalion and was wounded at Menin Road, Ypres, on 13 August 1917. He died of septicaemia in Calais General Hospital on 29 August 1917, aged 21. He is buried in Calais Southern Cemetery.

**Frank Skelton (1916)**, died on 21 October 1917, aged 19.

Frank Skelton was born on 17 April 1898, the son of William and Fanny Skelton of Roundhay, Leeds. He was educated at Willaston School in Nantwich, a small public school. He gained an Exhibition to study Medicine at Downing College in March 1916, matriculating in the Michaelmas term that year. While at Downing, he trained with the University's Officer Training Corps till January 1917, when he was given a commission in the Royal Flying Corps, 28th Squadron. He managed to keep two terms' residence and passed Part III of the first M.B. The verses below, written by Frank between June 1916 and October 1917 as he left England for the Front, were printed in the Michaelmas 1917 issue of 'The Griffin'.

2nd Lt Skelton was killed in action on 21 October 1917, at the age of 19, only a few weeks after arriving at the Front. He was buried in Mendingham Military Cemetery in Belgium. The last words on his headstone are Downing College's motto 'Quaerere Verum', meaning 'Seek the Truth'.



**Arthur George Richard Whitworth (1914)**, died on 30 March 1918, aged 21.

Arthur George Richard Whitworth was born on 23 January 1897 in Fordham, Cambridgeshire, the only son of Julius and Selina Whitworth. He was educated at the Perse School in Cambridge from 1909 as a day boy. He played in the 1st Rugby XV in his final year and a photograph has also survived of him in the School's archive acting in a Latin play. He matriculated at Downing in 1914, at the early age of 17. He is pictured here in the matriculation photograph (*courtesy of Lafayette Photography Ltd*).

Arthur was in residence for four terms, before leaving to go into munitions work. In early 1916 he enlisted as a Private with the Artists' Rifles (28th Battalion, the London Regiment), going out to France the following year. He was later evacuated to hospital

suffering with exposure after being trapped in a shell hole under heavy fire for two days and nights but later returned to his battalion. By March 1918, Arthur was a 2nd Lieutenant serving with the 19th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. On 28 March, following the start of the German Spring Offensive, he was wounded and died two days later on 30 March 1918, aged just 21 years old. 2nd Lt Whitworth is buried in the Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No.1.



**Frederick Thomas Austen Wilson [due for admission 1917]**, died on 12 April 1918, aged 19.

Frederick Thomas Austen Wilson was born in July 1898 in Manila, the Philippines, the son of Frederick and Ethel Wilson, later of Golders Green, London. From 1911 to 1913 he was educated at Ovingdean Hall prep school in Brighton, before entering Felsted School with a scholarship in May 1913. He was a School Prefect and won the School Mile, also gaining Colours for Cricket and Football. According to his School magazine, his hobby outside School was architecture and he was often to be found studying London churches around his home in Golders Green. In 1917 he gained a Classical Scholarship to Downing College, although, as a result of his experience as a Sergeant in Felsted's Officer Training Corps, he received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 5th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) on 25 August before he could matriculate. He was later attached to the 2nd Battalion.

Frederick went out to France a few months after receiving his commission and proved himself to be an able and valuable officer. On 21 March 1918, the Germans launched a major offensive, with Operation Michael in the Somme lasting until 4 April and the Lys Offensive to the north beginning five days later. 2nd Lt Wilson was killed in action on 12 April 1918 during the Battle of the Lys near the village of Vieux Berquin. He has no known grave but is likely to have been buried in Outtersteene Communal Cemetery with others who died at that time. He is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial.

**Charles Thomas Alexander Tyndall [due for admission in 1917]**, survived the war?

At the very start of this project, a search of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's online database of war dead returned a total blank for the C. T. A. Tyndall listed on the College's war memorial and led to much initial confusion. Charles Thomas Alexander Tyndall was listed in the 1917 University Calendar for Downing as admitted

but not matriculated, so it seemed that, as with many of the other men on the memorial and commemorated above, he had gone off to war after gaining a place at Downing but before starting his studies. Further research from genealogical records and newspaper announcements eventually shed some light on what may have happened afterwards and how his name came to be on the College's war memorial.

Charles Thomas Alexander Tyndall was born in early 1898, the son of William Beauchamp Tyndall, a clerk in the Bank of England who died in 1903. He was educated at Ashton Grammar School in Dunstable and, from 1912, at St Bees School. He was awarded an exhibition to Downing College in 1917 but, on 27 July that year, he joined the Indian Army as a 2nd Lieutenant, serving during the war with the 2nd Battalion of the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles, later attached to the 2nd Battalion of the 11th Gurkha Rifles. He continued in the Indian Army after the war, promoted to Lieutenant in 1922. That year he became engaged to Alison Fraser and they were married in Brisbane in 1925, raising their family in Australia and later in New Zealand, returning to the United Kingdom only in 1950. A. C. T. A. Tyndall gave a talk on the BBC Home Service in 1952 entitled 'A Cyclone Before and After', described as 'one man's account of what a cyclone did to his coffee plantation in New Caledonia and of how he dealt with some of the problems arising from it'.

Charles Thomas Alexander Tyndall died in the Cotswolds in 1960, so how did he come to be on a First World War memorial in Cambridge? Such errors are relatively common on memorials across the country, relying as they did on word of mouth, printed lists of war dead and communications from families. In the case of Tyndall and Downing, as he never actually matriculated, he never made any contacts in the College to feed back details of his service abroad and new life in Australia and it seems that the newspaper announcement of his engagement in 1922 – two years after the war memorial was unveiled – was perhaps missed by the College, or came too late. As most students who survived war service came back to take up their offered places, perhaps it was assumed that he had not survived and, as Tyndall appears not to have returned to the UK until after the Second World War, he is unlikely to have contacted the College himself after so many years. We will never know the exact circumstances which led to his inclusion on the College's war memorial, but this commemoration project ends, after remembering each of the 41 men who died as a result of the war, with the unlikely story of one man who survived it but never made it back to Downing for very different reasons.

There will be a new archive exhibition in the Autumn to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, featuring all the photographs and other records which have been uncovered in the course of the Roll of Honour project, many sent in by relatives of those who have been remembered over the course of the past few years. Please contact the College Archivist ([ju213@dow.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ju213@dow.cam.ac.uk), 01223 762905) if you would like to visit.

## FUTURE ARCHIVE PROJECTS: CAN YOU HELP?

### **40 Years of Women at Downing: Request for Memories**

2020 will mark the 40th anniversary of the admission of women as students at Downing (after the election of the College's first female Fellow, Dr Jane Weston, in 1978). The College Archivist is currently planning an archive exhibition to celebrate this significant development and would love to hear from any alumni – male and female – who matriculated at Downing between 1977 and 1983. If you would be happy to fill out a questionnaire detailing your memories of that period in the College's history for the Archive, please contact the College Archivist, Jenny Ulph ([ju213@dow.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ju213@dow.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 762905 (Mon, Wed, Fri)). Thank you.

Follow the Archive on Twitter ([@DowningArchives](https://twitter.com/DowningArchives)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/downingcollegearchives](https://www.facebook.com/downingcollegearchives))

## FEATURES

## COLLEGE HOCKEY

**The early years – defying the odds**

The Downing College Hockey Club was formed at the end of the Michaelmas Term 1904 and played competitively for the first time in the Lent Term 1905 in Division 3 of the League.



The first Downing hockey XI, including three Bryan-Brown brothers, Willoughby (standing centre), Guy (seated centre and whose obituary appears on page 47) and Douglas (seated far right) (kindly provided by the Bryan-Brown family)

In 1908 G Bryan-Brown became Downing's first hockey Blue. By the Lent Term 1909 two teams were fielded. Like cricket, hockey was, until the advent of all-weather surfaces, to an extent at the mercy of the elements. The report for the Lent Term 1910 states 'It is a great pity this unspeakable apology for a climate has almost killed hockey this term'. The consequences of playing on a sodden surface were highlighted in the report for the Lent Term 1914 which refers to the need for a 'horse and energetic groundsman' to ensure the pitch is rolled regularly. Hockey also faces the challenge of vying for the services of players who have abilities at other sports, particularly rugby and/or football.

During World War I a combined team from various colleges played. A Downing team returned to action in Division 3 in 1919 where it remained until the Lent Term of 1927 when the first of the Club's purple patches occurred. The 1927 1st XI was unbeaten and topped Division 3, the 2nd XI was third in Division 4 of the 2nd team League. It is presumably no coincidence that **F P Dodson** represented the University in 1926 immediately followed by **T V Cuerdon** in 1927. In 1928 the 1st XI was second in Division 2.

After a brief lull, the success continued. In 1931 the Club gained promotion to Division 1 and won Cuppers for the first time. The same year **A M Rocyn-Jones** captained the University. The year was completed by the move to a new ground (Long Road) providing a dedicated pitch for the first time which allowed a full fixture list for the Michaelmas Term. However, sport is a great leveller and the dizzy heights of Division 1 were too much and the 1st XI was relegated the following year. Success returned in 1936 when the 1st XI reached Cuppers semi-finals. That year **O Rocyn-Jones** was not only awarded a Blue, but also got his first cap for Wales. World War II again resulted in combined college teams. However, by 1946 the 1st XI was back in Division 1, in 1947 it was fourth and in 1948 .....it was relegated.

### **Becoming a presence at the highest level**

It is fair to say the 1950s were a rollercoaster. In 1951 the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI was promoted to Division 1 of the 2nd Team League, and in 1952 the 1st XI was promoted to Division 1. In 1953 the 1st XI won Division 1 for the first time and **Ian Fisher** was awarded a Blue. 1955 provided the contrast of relegation from Division 1 with not one but two Blues, **Laurence Newman**, who also had a trial for the Olympics and **Albert Skues**. Promotion in 1958, was followed by relegation in 1959, bottom of Division 2 in 1960 and promotion in 1961! **Paul Howells** was awarded a Blue in 1960. Having experienced the delights of the Lowestoft Easter Hockey Festival in 1958 the Club took part in the Berlin Festival in 1961.

The rollercoaster ride of the 1950's was replaced by stability in the early 60's. Promotion in 1961 was followed by winning Cuppers in 1962, beating St Catharine's 3-0. While bad weather is the curse of hockey, prolonged atrocious weather can have an unexpected upside. The winter of 1963 is the worst in living memory and as a result no college hockey was played in the Lent Term resulting in Downing retaining Cuppers. Hockey was played at University level and **Paul Howells** and **Brian Miller** were awarded Blues.

Reports in the Michaelmas Term usually included a reference to the quality or otherwise of the freshman intake. In Michaelmas 1963 it was reported "Only one freshman made the 1st XI and he is the veteran of the side, Bernard (30+?) Brady", who went on to captain the team for the 1965-66 season. **Bernard Brady** has provided the following recollections:



© Lafayette Photography

Downing hockey team 1962

“I came up to Downing in 1963 via St Edmunds House. My main playing sport at that time was hockey so I was keen to continue while I was at Downing. I had three very enjoyable years of hockey ending up as captain to my surprise, perhaps because I was years older than any other players and could always come up with good reasons as to why we did not seem to win very much. I remember hard fought Cuppers matches though I have no recollection of winning any, perhaps others will have better recollections. I do recall two away trips, one to Oxford and one to Cranwell so perhaps we were more successful away from home! My moment of fame was to play for the University Second side although this was courtesy of their captain who was also a Downing man and chair of the JCR and we did win against a school side. **Peter Dealtrey** was our star player when we could get hold of him away from University sides, but it was a happy team and we enjoyed playing. The annual dinners in the West Lodge remain in my memory. All in all it was a very happy time.”

After going close in 1966 **Hugh Mumford** was awarded a Blue in 1967, the same year a coach was appointed for the first time. After the 1st XI dropped a Division in the mid '60s the decade ended with the 1st and 2nd XI winning their Divisions and gaining promotion.

In addition, **James Cemlyn Foulkes** was awarded a Blue and a Welsh International Cap. **Pat Tyson-Cain** has the following recollections of playing from 1965 to 1968:

“I played hockey at Downing for three seasons, very happily, and very ineptly. Despite playing more for the 2nd XI than the 1st in my first year (65–66), I became Fixture Secretary in my second, with **Andy James** as Captain, and Captain myself (of a team all of whom markedly better players than I) in 67–68.

My father (talented, unlike his son – he later played on the wing for Norfolk) had also been Captain of DCHC around 1930–31. With the solipsism of youth, I never asked him much about his time at Downing and captaining DCHC. I believe games were played on the Domus next to where the tennis courts are (or used to be). Apart from the “English” stick giving way to the “Indian” one, the game changed little between my father’s time and mine, whereas in the last fifty years or so it seems to have evolved possibly more than any other sport.

We played mostly other colleges – I seem to remember that the great achievement of my last match was to avoid relegation to Division Three of the College leagues, which would have been extremely embarrassing for any college first team. I think we went to Oxford to play Balliol once though the College’s usual counterpart there was Lincoln and we had regular fixtures with firms’ teams such as ICT (as it then was) at Letchworth.

Having failed to realise how many strong local sides would be involved, I arranged for DCHC (playing as “Griffins”, if memory serves), to attend the Teddington Hockey Festival in 1968. The three sides we played, including Kingston, inflicted the heaviest sporting defeats I have ever suffered, either individually or collectively – but our heads did not drop, and I think we enjoyed the whole thing.”

### **1974 to 1984 – A glorious decade of success**

The 1970s did not begin auspiciously with the immediate return of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI to Division 2. However, there was a storm coming and the glorious decade of success from 1953 to 1963 was about to be replicated from 1974 to 1984. Momentum gathered in 1972 and 1973 when the 1st XI reached the semi-finals of Cuppers in both years. The 1st XI bettered that in 1974, winning Cuppers for the third time in its history. That year **Kevin Julian** captained the University side and four others played for the Wanderers, the University’s 2nd XI. Victory in Cuppers was followed in 1975 by winning Division 1. 1976 saw the 2nd XI win Division 3 and reach the semi-finals of 2nd XI Cuppers and in 1977 the club demonstrated its strength in depth by getting to the final of both 1st and 2nd XI Cuppers. **Jonathan (Jonty) Crush** recalls this glorious period:



© Lafayette Photography

Downing hockey team 1974

*Back Row:* K J Frost, J Bosworth, M Smith, K B McCollum, T O S Lloyd, D Turnbull, J Crush  
*Front Row:* G W Muench, P A Bosworth, D E B Grant, M H Baker, A D Graham, P Murphy, K J Julian

“The early 1970s saw unprecedented success for Downing Hockey Club, not least because of the formidable leadership of D.E.B. (David) Grant (club captain in 1972–3 and vice-captain in 1973–4) and M.H. (Malcolm) Baker (club captain in 1973–4 and 1974–5). Both played frequently for the Wanderers and Baker was named 12th man for the Blues match in 1972–3. Thereafter he devoted his hard-driving midfield skills to building Downing into the leading hockey force in the university. A platform was laid in 1972–3, when Downing performed better in the league than it had for years and reached the semi-final of Cuppers where they were narrowly beaten by Trinity.

Our team (augmented by Blues Kevin Julian and goalkeeper Geoff Muench) went one better in 1973–4, beating Jesus 5–1, Caius 3–0, and Magdalene 1–0 on the way to the final against Fitzwilliam. Eight of the beaten semi-final team from a year earlier (Baker, Grant, Julian, Muench, tennis blue Robin Frost (whose obituary appears in this edition), Tony Graham, Paul Murphy and Jonty Crush) played for Downing in the final, together with new signings Phil Bosworth, Martin Smith and Kevin McCollum. In front of a boisterous crowd of supporters (primarily from Downing Rugby Club with whom the Hockey Club

regularly shared post-match shandies in the Long Road pavilion), Downing completely outplayed a Fitzwilliam team with several Blues, but were still only tied 1-1 at the half. Late in the game, **McCollum** deployed his tennis skills to bang in the winning goal and Downing walked away with the Cup.

In 1974-5, the Hockey Club had another superb season, adding to its Cupper's triumph of the year before by winning the First Division. Our record included six victories and one narrow defeat. Corpus Christi had to be vanquished in the final game for Downing to lift the Cup. Prior to the whistle, the Downing players performed a haka-style war cry in Siswati, imported from Swaziland. Corpus Christi were completely undone and thrashed 7-2 by a rampant Downing team. With the bulk of the successful Cuppers and League winning teams graduating by 1976, several years were to pass before the Hockey Club again became a major player in Cambridge inter-college hockey."

As noted by Jonty, success did not last and in 1979 the 2nd XI was relegated to Division 2 of their League followed in 1980 by the 1st XI to Division 2 of their League. This fall from grace was immediately rectified in 1981 with the return of the 1st XI to Division 1 and the 2nd XI winning its Cuppers. There followed the most momentous year in the Club's history. In 1982 the 1st XI did the double for the only time, winning Cuppers and Division 1 and the 2nd XI reached their Cuppers Final. Equally significant was that following the admission of women in 1980, mixed and women's hockey was firmly established by 1982. Arriving in 1981, **Julia Harrison** was a driving force in establishing women's hockey, captaining in 1984. It was only fitting that a Downing man, **David Atkinson**, lead the University to a 4-1 victory over Oxford, scoring two of the goals. He also played for England under 21s and had a senior trial. **Chris Lush**, captain in 1982, provides the following recollections which he dedicates to **Bill Cashmore**, who died earlier this year and whose obituary appears in this Newsletter:

"I have always known that if Eamonn Andrews came to call with his red book and announced "Chris Lush, this is your life", the year I had the privilege of captaining Downing College's hockey team would feature prominently. It was, as the Downing magazine recorded, 'A momentous year for the Hockey Club': a 1st XI League and Cup double, a 2nd XI League title, and the women's and mixed teams becoming a regular feature of College life, albeit less than two years after Downing first admitted women.

Memories have come back freely since I was asked to write this reflection. After all, these were happy, care-free days; these people were good friends. Those who represented the 1st XI that season worked hard and played hard.

There were plenty of talented games players who played other sports to a high level; tennis, squash, rugby, cricket. We had only one Blues hockey player: **David Atkinson**, who led Cambridge to a resounding victory against Oxford at Lord's and who represented England U21 that year; and yet his loyalty to the College was never in doubt. In addition, **Dickie Baker** and I represented the Wanderers that season; but it would be fair to record that the strength of the Downing team was considerably greater than the sum of its parts. We had gained promotion from the 2nd Division under the captaincy of **Mark Grainger** in March 1981, so the core of the team was used to winning; although for our opponents, we were largely an unknown quantity. Nonetheless, the arrival of a freshman centre-forward, goalkeeper and centre-half amounted to the answer to a captain's prayer. We trained pretty hard on the Paddock and worked to become better players up at Long Road, always supported and welcomed by Melvin Longford, our groundsman. Furthermore, we were fortunate with availability and lack of injuries.

Early victories in the League fostered confidence as the Cup campaign got underway. Some details are very hazy whilst other memories seem to be crystal clear. I remember that the quarter-final against Fitzwilliam went to a replay, extra time and penalties. I remember meeting the team in the College Bar before making our way to Emmanuel for the next game and announcing, "Nobody remembers losing semi-finalists!" It was a close-run thing.

Then at Fenners in the final against St John's on a drab December afternoon I declared, "We have earned the right to play in this final!" Such rallying cries have been deployed more than once in the years since with teams I have coached. What I do remember vividly of that day is a feeling of friends all around me rising to the big occasion, playing 'out of their skins' with composure and togetherness in front of a substantial crowd, the vast majority of whom were supporting us.

As for our illustrious opponents, of course they wanted to win, but this must have seemed like 'just another game' against unfancied opposition. Furthermore, I sensed that they had never before come across anyone on a hockey field quite like **Simon Cowper** – nor had I! He was utterly committed and somewhat disconcerting. **Dave Atkinson** was a formidable presence and a constant threat, and alongside him in midfield **Bill Cashmore** and **Dickie Baker** grew in stature and assertiveness as the game unfolded. Meanwhile, **John Clarke** and **Simon Caffyn** did the simple things well. In defence and attack everybody worked tirelessly, none more so than **Simon Mount** on the right wing.

Goal scorers? Not a rhetorical question. Hands up, please! In truth, goals could have come from any one of six players. **Adam Jolley** and **Tim Crossley**, unsung heroes throughout the season, may well have scored on the big day. I would put money on **Dave Atkinson** claiming at least one, and **Bill Cashmore** had the knack of scoring goals at important times. For most of the second half, I seem to recall, we played 'with a cushion' as pressure mounted upon an opposition for whom nothing seemed to go quite right. I am sure our goalkeeper, **John Bertsch**, played a huge part in that. These were the days before rolling subs or 'flooding from the bench', but the support of **Mark Rushton** and **Ian Hodgson** should not go unmentioned.

The final whistle blew. We had won! Relief and elation combined. Hands were shaken, backs slapped. We celebrated with friends from the touchline and our hugely respected Master, Sir John Butterfield, produced a bottle of Lanson Black Label from a briefcase to get the party going. Win or lose, we had agreed that we would all attend Formal Hall that evening. This we did, but not before a fair amount of money had crossed the bar at the Prince Regent. More champagne appeared at the meal. I seem to recall taking a glass to the Master and he returned the compliment by calling for silence and toasting the Hockey Club. I also remember a cold bath was required the next day before



© Lafayette Photography

Downing men's hockey team 1982

**Back Row:** J A Bertsch, T N Crossley, W S Cowper, S W Mount, M W Rushton, C A Jolley, J J Clark

**Front Row:** R A Baker, S G M Caffyn, C J Lush, D C M Atkinson, W J Cashmore

I presented myself before John Hopkins – another legendary supporter of the College, to whom a number of us had reason to be very grateful, and still are, myself included. My only memento of the day, apart from a huge empty whisky bottle, was one of the match balls – belated apologies to C.U.H.C.. It has the score engraved on it, but is in storage in Stoke and I am in Brunei so I cannot refer to it as evidence.

There must have been anxious moments during the rest of the season, but we seemed to progress inexorably towards the 1st XI League title and the completion of 'The Double'. The confidence that flowed from that grey afternoon in December, combined with the commitment and togetherness that was present through the whole season, meant that Downing H.C. were a virtually irresistible force. It was with great pride that I accepted Sir John Butterfield's invitation for the squad to dine with him on High Table in April. I probably spoke far too long at the annual D.C.H.C. dinner in March – my wife says I always do, my history pupils are more polite!

'Where are they all now?' is the article I wish I could write. I have bumped into several of the team over the years. Just the other day news reached me of the untimely death of **Bill Cashmore** – a lovely, talented, funny man. Why not a dinner at Downing in early December 2021 to meet and celebrate again, forty years on? **John Clarke** will say grace; **Simon Caffyn** will provide cars to and from the station. The toast will inevitably be, "Absent friends". For my part, it was and remains a great privilege to have played for and captained this team.

Do, please, get in touch. christopher.lush@jjs.edu.bn "

1982 was always going to be a tough year to follow, but the Club performed very respectably, the men's 1st XI being runners up in Division 1 and the men's 2nd XI gaining promotion to Division 2. The decade of success was concluded in 1984 with the men's 1st XI winning Cuppers, albeit having to share the title with Fitzwilliam.

### **1985 to 1993 – consolidation**

Since that decade the Club's fortunes have ebbed and flowed, but hockey is firmly established as one of the main sports in Downing, greatly enhanced by the ability to field mixed and women's teams. In 1985 **Ayab Shafiq** was awarded the first of this three Blues and was joined in 1986 by **Guy Slimmon** for the first of his two Blues. The men's 1st XI in 1987 returned to find that, due to results reported during the closed season, it had been relegated! Fortunately, the women's XI was able to lift the gloom as it 'marauded' through Division III and won the Cuppers Plate competition. **Zillah Stone** recalls:



© Lafayette Photography

Downing women's hockey team 1987

**Back Row:** D R Cantrell, H J Byton, P Disberry, P L Newman, V J Wilson, P J Riddle

**Front Row:** K S Tyerman, L J Reid, J E Cooke, Z W Stone, M Hotten, S L Wickens, A J Leslie

"I was captain of Downing's Women's Hockey team for the 1986-87 season. I set as my goal for that season putting out a team for every fixture and we succeeded. We lost numerous matches, but we did actually play all our fixtures and never forfeited a match that season by not turning up or by not turning out enough players to make a team or by not bringing an umpire (thanks to the members of the Men's teams who agreed to volunteer to blow the whistle).

As the male:female undergraduate ratio in Downing at that time was about 5:1 to achieve this I regularly persuaded those who were not hockey players to go and stand on the wing for me as, with luck, it might take the opposition at least part of the first half of the match to realise they did not need to use one of their players to mark that wing (who might be hungover as well as unsure how to hold a hockey stick).

Hockey was a much lower profile sport than either rowing or rugby in Downing then. The Men and Women had "Hockey Formal Hall" perhaps a couple of times a season. One year we even had a meal outside College. All, as I remember them, were friendly and low-key occasions, drawing together an assortment of undergraduates studying a variety of subjects, but with none of the ritual or legend of rowing or rugby events.

Combining the Men's and Women's teams together, our numbers were sufficient for us to commission a Hockey Club jumper with the Downing crest

on it and made of wool, to help keep the Cambridge cold out. I still have my blue jumper, though I think grey was also an option.

30 years on, the photograph outside the chapel of the team for that season, has, as well as the names of the team that did from time to time win matches, the statement: "Winners Cuppers Plate". The plate itself (literally a dinner plate from, I am not sure why, St Catharine's) is balanced on my feet in the photograph. It had a short life in Downing, getting broken in the bar later that week as it was, I heard, tested for aerodynamic qualities."

The men's 1st XI rebounded in 1988 reaching the Cuppers final and ended the decade reasonably placed at college level and at University level; **Richard Atherton** was awarded a Blue and elevated to captain for the following year. The most notable event in 1989 was **Fay Gordon** becoming Downing's first women's hockey Blue. A lull then followed with mid table performances until 1992 when the men's 1st XI were promoted to Division 1 and the women's 1st XI promoted to Division 2.

### **1994 to 2000 – from grass to astro and success once again**

The club initially performed steadily until in 1997 the women's XI won promotion to Division 2 and was runner up in Cuppers. **Catherine Derrick** was awarded a Blue. In 1999 the men's XI won promotion to Division 1 with **Rebe Joyner** and **Emma Kirschen** being awarded Blues. Recollections of that time provided by **Suman Ziaullah** and **Will Parry**:

"Wistful recollections of DCHC in the mid-1990s bring back many fond memories. Truly these were halcyon days: sliding around on muddy pitches, players reporting to Addenbrooke's with injuries inflicted by their own team mates, and the occasional blazing row as, in an unexpected turn of events, Cambridge students were found to be guilty of over-competitiveness and taking themselves a touch too seriously. Fortunately standards rapidly returned to student norms in the mixed hockey arena, whether by commencing matches with all players involved in a piggy-back race to the halfway line or punctuating play with beer fines as cans were distributed around the touchline and play was halted any time one was knocked over so the offending player could down its contents.

That we achieved any success at all was an unlikely triumph of optimism, camaraderie and a rather indiscriminating selection policy ("Yes, but can you hold a stick?") over some questionable umpiring and a constant loss of players to the football and rugby clubs. Special mention is reserved for the most stalwart players – the likes of **Dan Martin**, **Tim Briggs**, **Ben Skinner**, **Lee**

Edmond, Pete Ho, Rik Pendlebury, Maryam Alemi, Kat Bryce, Joss Bigmore, James Storm, Duncan Sinclair, and Antipodean Angus (“yip, yip, yip”) – although there were countless invaluable additions to this motley crew.

And yet, successes did come. We won the lion’s share of our matches, including notching up two 10-nil victories, over Trinity and Catz. We contested a Cuppers final, albeit this was in 3D hockey, aka lacrosse. And we even spent one season as strong contenders to top the table (we finished up third). As our men’s captain wrote at the time, we were “surely one of the most irritating teams in Cambridge – ill mannered, foul-mouthed, not universally impressive, but bloody difficult to beat”. We loved every minute.”

“In 1996 two new forwards arrived to bolster the aforementioned stalwarts. Between them, **Adrian Chapple** and **Will Parry** ended up scoring around 100 goals in their four years playing for the College (Probably. It could be more, but record keeping never was my strong point). It certainly helped that Adrian was one of the University’s 100m sprinters. Their arrival also coincided in the slow move away from the grass/mud of Long Road to the various astroturfs scattered across Cambridge – this required a change in skills, with the ball no longer liable to hit a divot and bounce over a stick.

A quote from a 1997 Griffin suggests that the perennial problem of getting out a full team might be at an end: “The season began with an influx of good new players, swelling the ranks of DCHC to a squad for the first time in several years.” Those new arrivals, including **Joel Meyer**, **Nick Jones**, **Rich Smiles** and **Will Herrington**, were to be a key part of a renaissance for the club.

In the 1998/99 season it clicked. A near unbeaten season, losing only once in the league (or at least that’s what my memory tells me), we finished second, getting promoted back to the first division. That team was augmented by **Ali Arshad** and **Malcom Proudfoot** with **Rebe Joyner** adding some skill from the women’s Blues. Also the club somehow managed to convince College to fund the hiring of astros both for matches and training, helping the team’s fast attacking style.

Was it a fluke? Apparently not. In our first season back in the top division we beat (nearly) everyone. We ended up finishing second, having been top of the league for much of the season, only to see John’s go top right at the end. And it wasn’t just the men. The mixed team won the Cupper’s, beating Catz on penalty flicks, the first silverware that DCHC had won in anyone’s memory. A great way to start the new millennium – and for many of us – sign off on college hockey.”

As the Club entered the new millennium, the women's XI was encountering the same issue confronted by the men's XI when it was established, namely too many competing sports. Thus, while the profile of Downing women's hockey at University level was very high, providing four squad players including captain **Rebe Joyner** and fellow Blue **Emma Kirschen**, the College regularly struggled to field an XI; the only consolation being that their opponents never had a full team either.

### **2000 onwards – triumphs mixed with a few downfalls**

The men's XI was relegated in 2001, but **Ali Arshad** and **Emma Kirschen** were awarded Blues, with the former repeating that achievement in 2002. The rollercoaster ride continued in 2003 with the men's XI winning Division 2 and promotion to Division 1. **Peter Frank** was awarded a Blue. Team captain was **Matt Dyson** who recalls:

“I was involved in the Hockey club, from 2001 to 2008, first as an undergrad and then as a PhD student. We were a pretty wonderful club. There were some really skillful players, including the odd Blue here and there, like **Ali Arshad** and **Peter Frank**, a number of uni players and many others like **Alun Rees** and **Tom Leighton** plus **Chris Knight**, **Will Owen**, **Simon Thomas** and the ever cheeky **Pete Sumner**. There were some very experienced players doing grad work, often medics, like **Alistair Hodges**, who always had a trick or two up their sleeves. We were also lucky to have some really dependable defenders, for whom this was a welcome time in the outdoors/rain/snow/wind, like **Matt Mayer**, **Dave Riley** and others. I don't mean to miss anyone off, but there really were very many great people.

I had the privilege of captaining the team, and keeping goal, and it was an amazing group to play hockey with. We were pretty successful too. We won far more than we lost, and a few times, won the league. We didn't have the Blues players to win coppers, compared with, most often, St Catz. But I'd like to think what we had more than any other quality, the sense of it being a team sport, played for each other and with the respect of the opposition. It was umpired with volunteers from another team assigned to it, usually players from that team, or self-umpired at worst. Downing wasn't pleasantly posh like Trinity, highly combative like Jesus, excessively skillful (they did have the only College astro at their disposal) like Catz or somewhat enamoured of themselves like St John's, I hope we were just good players and good people. Other than a large amount of foam padding, my largest contribution was inaugurating the games of “Simon says” just before the opening whistle, to get minds and bodies focused and have fun. That, and loud shouting from the goal area.”



Nuala with trophy at a DCHC dinner

2004 was all about women's hockey who not only won promotion to Division 2, but reached Cuppers final. In addition, **Jo Tibbitt**, **Rachel Sissons** and **Sandra Healy** were awarded Blues. 2005 saw sustained representation at University level by **Natasha Close**, **Matt Dyson**, **Sandra Healy**, **Rachel Sissons** and **Alan Rees**, which he repeated the following year. The march of the women's XI continued in 2006 with promotion to Division 1 followed by runners up in 2007 and winners of Cuppers. **Nuala Yelland (née Tumelty)** recalls:

"As a fresher I went to the College training sessions when term started just over the road at The Ley's. I was happily welcomed into the team and also encouraged to join the University 3rd team as well part way through the year when they were missing a few players through injury and played college and uni hockey throughout my 4 years at Cambridge. In my first year Downing were playing in the second division, but a good influx of freshers helped us to get promoted and in the second year we challenged for the first division league title. But the real success was in Cuppers where we were triumphant in the final against a strong Cat's team who were on home turf. We lost the corresponding fixture in the following year after we had beaten John's in the semi-final, my greatest contribution (I was told by the umpire) being a clash of heads with their Blue's player which landed us both in A&E with concussion!

As well as the on the pitch activities I remember quite a few socials involving curries. The most memorable being when a law firm with some alumni Cambridge members came for a game and then took us out for a curry at the Mahal and proceeded to produce several bottles of vodka and sambuca at the tables. I wonder if the curry house is still there and allows the same to happen?! College and University sport gave me some of the best memories and closest friends from my time at Downing. And it was through my involvement with the University hockey club in my 4 years at Cambridge that I met Jack, my now husband who was studying at John's. We are now both members of the club and the committee where we live so the love of the sport has lived on."

Having been given an incentive the men's XI were runners up in Division 1 in 2008, while **Jennifer Stevens** was awarded the first of her two Blues. The Club ended the decade with both 1st XIs in Division 1. This was reversed by the men in 2010, but they returned to Division 1 in 2011.

After marking time for a few seasons the men and the women asserted themselves. First in 2015 the men were placed 1st and the 2nd in the termly League. They then went to London to play in 'Supercuppers' against Worcester College, Oxford, losing a close match 3-2. In the same year the mixed team won the Oliver Wyman 5-a-side tournament. The men continued their dominance into 2016, winning Division 1 in the Lent term and reaching the semi-final of Cuppers and the women matched their achievements, which was remarkable since they only had six players and no goalie during some games. Publications in 2015 include the following descriptions of the club:

"When asked for three words to describe DCHC outgoing co-captain **Ishaan Rahman**, known for his crushing challenges, occasional use of French articles in logistical emails and strong grasp of GCSE English poetic techniques, replied "fit, friendly, and first". The latter refers to the club's league success placing 1st (and then 2nd) in the termly college leagues and victory in the coveted and prestigious Oliver Wyman 5-a-side.

The club is historically known for finishing fourth, a stereotype Ishaan and the other captain, **Hugh Chatfield**, have succeeded to shake. The team's success this year meant they also travelled to London in March to play in the ambitiously named "Supercuppers" against Worcester College, Oxford, who topped the equivalent Oxford division. Despite losing a close game 3-2 on penalties the club has reached new, dizzying, and unforeseen hockey standards it looks to maintain in the coming years.



Downing men's hockey team 2015

DCHC this year has enjoyed unprecedented levels of organisation, strong turnouts at training, chat warranting stern umpiring disapproval, disappointingly unpromising conversations with a stash designer and has compiled an almost humorous collection of team photos. The season has been historic to say the least and the team are eager to top it off with success in the Johns 6s tournament, attired in quite literally award-winning fancy dress, this May Week under the leadership of Ian ‘Gibbo’ Gibson and Richard ‘Dickey’ Thorburn. [captains in 2015/16]”

From the same period **Tabitha Adams** has the following recollections:

“DCHC was an important part of my college life since my days as a fresher. In my first year the team was a great way of meeting people from across the College in different years and different subjects, all with a common passion for hockey. In my first year the women’s team finished 4th in the league, a respectable position considering we were often up against teams with a greater resource of players, including those who played for the university. Mixed hockey was a new concept to me, I quickly learnt it was not for the faint hearted but that the faster-paced more technical game was also very exciting, and it was an opportunity to truly represent your college as a ‘club’. At the end of the year we won the John’s 6s tournament – a 6-aside grass tournament played during the middle of May Week. Getting a full team to turn up sober was half the fun, but it is also a competitive tournament and to go home with a victory felt great.

In my second year I became captain of the women’s hockey team alongside Livvy Probert. We were gifted with some new fresher talent, including an actual goalie (often the goalie was simply the bravest volunteer!) which bolstered our returning team of seasoned players. A highlight of my time at DCHC would definitely be winning the league with this team. Despite facing teams with multiple Blues players, the plucky Downing spirit prevailed.

Our results in my third year weren’t as outstanding as the first two, mainly due to the fact that a lot of our great hockey players were also talented sportsmen and women in other areas, and had to make priorities. However, my enduring memory of DCHC will be a group of people who might not all have been the strongest or most skilled hockey players, but would always get on their bikes (sometimes as early as 8:30am) including in the freezing cold and pouring rain, to turn up and play our best, as a team. This sense of team spirit and courage was I think demonstrated best in one of my favourite



Downing women's hockey team 2015

women's matches, when despite having a team of 6 against a full 11-strong Christs' team, we managed to keep the game to a 0-0 draw!

At the end of each year there is an alumni match followed by a dinner, which is a great way to get together to celebrate the year's achievements and reconnect with old team mates. Unfortunately I wasn't able to make this year's dinner, but I hope to return next year, and I wish DCHC all the best for the future."

The 2017 season was not one of note, with the men having an average season, but the women being relegated. However, 2018 has witnessed a return to winning ways with the men winning Division 1 in the Michaelmas term and being 3rd in the Lent term. The men's and mixed teams both reached Cuppers semi-finals. Unfortunately, due to the Beast from the East, the men were unable to contest Supercuppers. The women had a frustrating year against less enthusiastic teams.

So after over a hundred years of ups and downs it is fair to say that the DCHC is ensconced amongst the higher echelons of the college hockey teams, not always permanently, but regularly enough for it not to be a surprise, as well as being a regular provider of players to the University teams. This despite the challenges of often not being able to field a complete team let alone an unchanged one. Insight into how this and other challenges are overcome was provided in the 2003 report:

'Hockey is not traditionally run like some other sports with mandatory meetings, outings and trainings. We play because we want to'.

It is very reassuring that in these days of burdensome training schedules for so many sports, even at college level, a sport can survive simply because its participants want to play.

*Editor's Note: If this article has stirred memories of exploits on the hockey pitch which have not been reported, please do send them to Association@dow.cam.ac.uk. for inclusion in next year's Newsletter. This is also the last in our series focusing on major College sports. However, as can be seen from this Newsletter the range of sports in which members of the College participate has never been greater. If you would like to share memories of a sport that has not been covered in this series please do send them to the aforesaid address.*

## SEGREANTS 2018 - BOAT NAMING

The tremendous support amongst former members of DCBC for current rowers at Downing continues. The President has referred to the Segreants weekend in April and after this article is a report on the Cambridge Rowing Tank. However, Segreants and former alumni have also continued their generous investment in the DCBC fleet.

On 21 April the boating area outside the Boat House was filled by students, rowers, Segreants and their families as a new coxed IV, 'The Segreants' was named by the Segreant President, **Guy Williams (1992)**.

A new women's VIII was also named in honour of the late **Rachel Penny (nee Pearce) (1986)**, whose obituary appears in this Newsletter. **Richard Spink (1984)**, a close friend of the Penny family, welcomed Patrick Penny and his and Rachel's sons Nick and Joe; Professor and Mrs Pearce and Rachel's sisters and cousin.

**Kate Woolterton (nee Brown) (1984)** offered a moving tribute to Rachel, noting that the donors of funds for the new boat – exclusively former women members of DCBC – were honoured that the new boat would bear the name of a woman who embodied the true spirit of Downing rowing. Kate remembered that Rachel rowed in each term at Downing, winning her blades in three successive Mays crews in the 1980s as well as her CUWBC Blondie colours. She was a committed and stalwart supporter of novices as Captain of Lower Boats.



© Ben Sutherland

Rachel is christened by Kate Woolterton

She continued: 'one of my most joyous memories of Rachel was coxing her on the last day of the Mays, when we were going for our fourth bump, and blades. About 20 strokes after the start Rachel caught a crab, her first ever and was left lying on her back. I had to tell the crew to stop rowing for her to recover the blade. This as you will appreciate is quite alarming in a bumps race, because in fours the crew behind is *very* close. We restarted, amid horns and whistles from behind and Rachel pulled so hard I had to use the rudder to stop us crashing into the left hand bank. We got the most wonderful of bumps and our blades.'

The 'Rachel' was officially named by **Dr Kate Panter (1981)**. Kate was one of the first ever Downing women and arrived at College as a seasoned international oarswoman, having competed at Junior International level. At Cambridge, she won blues in three successive years, 1982 to 1984, and also rowed for Downing in the bumps, starting off the journey for Downing's women rowers. Kate represented GB in the women's eight at the 1983 World Championships and at the 1984 LA Olympics in the pair.

Kate spoke warmly about the values of rowing and the sense of achievement and community it fostered – values which remained so evident in the spirit and success of DCBC.

*Feroces ad mortem.*

**Carrie Winter  
(née Sage) (1983)**

## THE CAMBRIDGE ROWING TANK

As rowing training continues to develop and evolve, Downing College Boat Club, the predominant rowing club in Cambridge, leads the way. Training, diet and attitude, now more so than ever, are just as important in delivering boat speed as time spent on the water, churning up the Long Reach.

Rowing in Cambridge is ever increasing in popularity and this has placed mounting pressure on clubs' facilities and the river. A serious constraint over the past few years has been the congestion on the river, with rowing Eights fighting for space from their boathouses all the way to Bait's Bite Lock. On top, academic pressures keep compressing available rowing hours down to two hours a day. Particularly for novices, it is becoming increasingly difficult to come up to grade during the short Cambridge terms.

Conscious of this, Director of Rowing Ian Watson has for some time advocated the benefits of a DCBC Rowing Tank, with the idea that it could be located at the rear of the boathouse. A team of Segreants experienced in project management and highly supportive DCBC Captains developed a plan to build such a rowing tank, on a mezzanine floor above the boat bays. Charlie Slater, a current student, started the project by successfully entering the Downing Enterprise Competition and obtaining the initial funding for the feasibility



© Ben Sutherland

The Cambridge Rowing Tank at the official opening

studies. The project has since been heavily driven by **Simon Wood (1982)**, **Jeremy Boardman (1981)** and **Charlie Green (1983)**, who have helped to bring the idea to fruition.

Once the initial design and engineering works were completed and approved, a total of £700,000 was raised, mainly by donations from our generous alumni, also from DCBC endowments. The tank was manufactured in the USA and shipped to Cambridge in April 2017. The building work took place between June 2017 and January 2018, with a range of renovations to the boathouse, including refurbishment of the clubroom and gym. On 3 January, the filling of the tank was completed and it was used for the first time.

Rowing tanks are used extensively in the USA and are becoming more prevalent in the UK. They are excellent for building good rowing technique in novices and developing the rowing technique of experienced rowers – where athletes can be coached in laboratory conditions!

DCBC will have free access at peak rowing times for two hours every day as well as at other non-peak times. The facility will be rented out to other colleges, clubs and schools at commercial rates, bringing in revenue and financial stability to the club. It will not be the only club to benefit, though: the tank will greatly reward other clubs in Cambridge and help to improve the standard of rowing across the region. One key aspiration is that schools which do not currently offer rowing due to the highly expensive equipment will be able to do so. Children across Cambridge who would not usually have the chance to row will now be able to try it at this rowing tank.

The official opening of the Cambridge Rowing Tank took place on Segreants' Day. Everyone at DCBC is greatly looking forward to the fantastic opportunities that the rowing tank will bring them and the rest of Cambridge.

**Simon Wood (1982) and Charlie Slater (2014)**

## DOWNING ENTERPRISE

Cambridge has over the last 50 years established itself as the leading technology cluster outside the United States. A key ingredient has been the presence of the University which has encouraged entrepreneurship at all levels. This spirit of entrepreneurship led to Downing being the first Cambridge college to provide support, through Downing Enterprise, to its members who had ideas they wanted to try to commercialise. **Parsa Akbari (2012)** writes:

Downing Enterprise is an annual business competition to promote and inspire entrepreneurial thinking within the student community at Downing. Downing Enterprise

has benefited enormously from its board of directors, which include a number of experienced alumni who act as mentors to guide students on their entrepreneurial journey. These alumni also provide the funding.

The competition begins with a 'one-page' business plan submission for the year of 2018 we had a massive total of 22 submissions. After a heated and exciting meeting in London hosted by board member **Eric Coutts (1980)**, we managed to whittle down our 22 submissions to six finalists who were shortlisted for the next phase of the competition. Each of the six finalists was assigned a mentor from the Downing Enterprise board of directors to guide them to the next stage of the competition: a 'Dragons Den' style pitch day held on 15th March in the Howard Theatre. The six candidates had business proposals ranging from using satellite imagery for identifying and monetising agricultural waste to a patented process to produce cheap hydrogen fuel cells. As part of the mentoring process, the candidates were offered two hours of consultancy time per team with the consulting firm Templar Advisors.

Following a combination of mentoring, lots of practice and one-to-one training with Templar Advisors, the finalists polished their presentations ready for the pitch day in the Howard Theatre. The event was open to all students at Downing and was well received. Following the presentations the board retired for dinner and decided on the winners of the competition:

- 1st Place Michael Albergo with Agronomia (£2000)
- 2nd place Robert Kunzmann with Four Elements (£1000)
- 3rd Place, Emily Sellman with The Fingr Saver (£500)

The finalists, all of whom presented excellent and compelling business propositions, and their mentors are as follows:

**Agronomia, Michael Albergo, Mentored by Prof Bill O'Neill.**

An artificial intelligence (AI) analytics platform that will process images from Sentinel-1 and 2 satellites to supply a holistic overview of the agricultural waste production. Creating an exchange on which biochemical companies can purchase these waste products for their needs in a more regular and predictable manner and at lower prices than the cost of virgin feedstock from dedicated land.

**Swap Trumps, Ibrahim Sheik, Mentored by Muoi Lien (2012)**

This allows groups of friends to create a simple profile (with a photo, name, and bio) and match with other friendship groups in the area. The Apple app has been launched in Cambridge. With over 250 downloads in the first 24 hours, it quickly built up traction, with 500 downloads to date on iOS alone.

**Four Elements – A Physical Gaming Experience, Robert Kunzmann, Mentored by Jonathan Franks.**

For those who like to spend more time with friends and family, who are dissatisfied with games that are difficult to learn or take long to play, Four Elements is the easy and fun way that provides intuitive gameplay for young and old. Over 120 games have been sold in 2017, with a revenue of £7,080, and £1,600 has been raised in a recent Kickstarter campaign.

**H24E Innova, Arisa Kure, Mentored by Mark Green (1979)**

It aims to sell hydrogen on demand at convenience, using a certain material and a patented Ultra-Short Pulse Laser (“USPL”) technology, which is 100% more efficient than conventional water electrolysis. It works with Kyoto University, Japan, which has already obtained relevant patents in Japan and the patents-pending at Patent Cooperation Treaty. Its goal will be achieved by producing hydrogen on demand and/or leasing its patented proprietary formula, which it aims to commercialize this year.

**Downing Eliminator, Alex Fellows, Mentored by Charlie Green (1983)**

‘The Downing Eliminator’ is a race involving eight competitors, each on their own ergometer, racing over 30-second intervals. After the end of each interval, the rower who has covered the least distance is eliminated. This repeats for a total of seven intervals until there is only one rower remaining. The inaugural Downing Eliminator took place within Downing’s Howard Theatre at the beginning of February. The unique competition style attracted world record holder Sean Gaffney to attend the event and lead the awards ceremony.

**The Fingr Saver, Emily Sellman, Mentored by Eric Coutts (1980)**

A breathable and water-permeable device to protect the ends of fingers from contact or pressure, which allows a person to use their hands as normal. Easy to use and fast to put on, the Fingr Saver is an inexpensive and safe way to deal with anything from injuries like cuts and burns, to ensuring painted nails are smudge-free.

We look forward to next year’s competition. If you have an interest in joining the Downing Enterprise board and mentoring students to inspire entrepreneurial skills within the College community please contact Parsa at [enquiries@downingenterprise.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@downingenterprise.co.uk), for more information see <http://downingenterprise.co.uk>



Aayush Sonthalia - "A fly on the wall" - Highly Commended Downing Alumni Photographic Competition

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

### TAKING CHARGE OF ASCOT

#### **Introduction**

Having graduated from Downing in 1979, I spent the next 33 years working as a commercial and regulatory disputes lawyer in the law firm Allen & Overy based in London and Hong Kong. In 2015, having moved on from lawyering, I was thrilled to be appointed chief executive of Ascot Racecourse. Both my sons have ridden as amateur jump jockeys and we, as a family, train jump racehorses on our farm in North Dorset to run in point to points. So it has been fascinating to move on to be involved in a business close to our hearts and I am delighted to pen a few words to share some insight into this unique sporting venue.

#### **Brief overview of Ascot racecourse's business**

Ascot Racecourse was founded in 1711 by Queen Anne and is now constituted under a unique statutory trust contained in the Ascot Authority Act 1913. Three trustees (known collectively as the Ascot Authority) are appointed by our Monarch and are ultimately responsible for the stewardship of the Trust, accountable personally to her. The statutory purpose of the trust is to act for the benefit of racing at Ascot. All our returns are re-invested in the business for the benefit of Horsemen (owners, breeders, trainers, jockeys and stable staff), Racegoers and Off course followers, both in the UK and Internationally. The racecourse and wider estate are held under a long lease from the Crown Estate. 19th Century Enclosure Acts require Ascot Heath, on which the racecourse is situated, to be used only for racing.

Underneath the Trust we have a corporate structure for the running of the business of which I am the chief executive. The business employs around 200 people full time (directly and through our catering joint venture with Sodexo known as 1711 by Ascot) and up to 6000 casual staff on a Royal Ascot raceday. We host around 600,000 racegoers a year across 26 racedays, 300,000 of whom come to the five days of Royal Ascot. That is about 10% of the total number of racegoers attending in the UK from around 1.5% of the fixtures. With around 6m racegoers a year, racing is still the 2nd largest live attended sport in the UK behind soccer. 4 out of the top 10 live attended sporting events in the UK are equine related: Royal Ascot, The Derby, The Grand National and the Badminton Horse Trials.

We aim to offer something for everyone who wants to get involved across a rainbow of our society. At Royal Ascot our entry level picnic Windsor Enclosure takes 20,000 people and has a wonderful trackside connection with the Royal procession and the racing. Our mid tier Queen Anne and Village Enclosures take 20,000 and 5,000 each and our formal Royal Enclosure 13,000. We then have around 7,500 customers a day who take our Fine Dining options in our private boxes and restaurants which together with our Owners &

Trainers (who provide the sporting entertainment) make a full capacity attendance of around 70,000 per day. 30% of our annual turnover is food and drink, so this is a very important part of everyone's day at all levels.

Ascot currently turns over around £90m per annum and generates around £20m in net cash, all of which is reinvested into the business (1) to repay debt (currently around £60m and down from £146m in 2006), (2) in infrastructure and venue experience (currently around £7m per annum), (3) in prize money for the owners, jockeys, trainers and stable staff of the horses which race with us and finally (4) in general business development.

Royal Ascot represents around 70% of the revenues and returns of the business. To give some idea of the scale of the Royal Ascot build, the annual build cost is around £5m with a further cost of £10m to run the event.

Alongside the racing we run a £2m a year conference and events business ranging from business conferences to large exhibitions, film sets, charity events and parties.

The estate runs to some 265 acres and comprises a wider community than just a racecourse and its properties and facilities. On the estate we have a Cricket Club, a Golf Club, a Locomotive Society, a Football Club (with 17 teams), 2 Nursery Schools, 3 High St Community Car Parks, a Public Library and 25 residences. We host a variety of meetings of local organisations throughout the year.

### **In terms of profile:**

- Ascot is broadcast nationally on ITV with a peak audience at Royal Ascot of around 1.25m.
- Royal Ascot is viewed in 175 territories internationally with a potential reach of some 650m people
- We were viewed in 2017 for the first time on NBC for nearly 5 hours a day live which reaches over 90% of US households. The Royal Procession on the Tuesday was broadcast on NBC's flagship Today Show with 2.5m viewers, nearly double the UK TV audience.
- 40,000 betting shops in 43 countries broadcast our races live.
- We send out over 7m emails to our databases in the year and our website visitors view around 19.5m pages on the website.
- Our Facebook followers watch a total 4 years of Facebook videos.
- Our Twitter followers do 11m views.
- Around 40% of our horse entries come from France and Ireland. On average we welcome around 20 horses to race at Royal Ascot from outside Europe, travelling about 100k miles in aggregate.
- We live stream Royal Ascot into lifestyle events in Beijing and Shanghai comprising the racing, fine dining and Ascot style fashion, a growing trend.

### **Royal Ascot in numbers**

4" grass, 1m 6f round the course, 3 miles of bunting, 200 private boxes, 167,000 pieces of furniture, 100 bars and restaurants, 7 Michelin stars, 100 musicians, 35,000 rounds of sandwiches, 7,000 punnets of berries, 2,900 lobsters, 7,000 crabs, 2,400 kg beef sirloin, 3,700 lamb rumps, 10,000 steaks, 1,000 kg clotted cream, 25,000 spears asparagus, 30,000 chocolate eclairs, 90,000 bottles of mineral water, 39 kitchens, 51,000 bottles of champagne, 160,000 glasses of Pimms, 170,000 pints, 13,500 car park spaces, an incalculable number of picnics, 500 horses, 30 races, over £7m in prize money, 400 helicopters, 1,000 limos and 2,400 cleaners working 24/7.

Our overall direct economic impact has been measured by Deloitte as being around £150m per annum (excluding the very substantial off course betting).

In essence, the business of Ascot is a combined international lifestyle, hospitality and sports business which engages with very diverse and multi-faceted constituencies and customers. It generates a reasonably significant beneficial economic impact and has a global reach which presents the UK to the world in a positive light. International reach is pivotal to our future business development and as a shop window for international investment in British Racing, a £3bn per annum industry.

### **Community**

We reach out to our wider community in a range of ways. We work with local schools and our Under 17s Colts and Fillies Club is 18,500 strong. About 250 charities benefit in some way from our support each year. A core part of our business is providing a venue for charity fundraising. The Round Table have raised over £200,000 with, in recent years, our fireworks night. Our Property Raceday raises just under £200,000 per annum for children's charities. And over the last 3 years the racecourse raised £1.1m for The Prince's Countryside Fund. We partner with the Berkshire Community Foundation to directly benefit local charities.

### **Environmental**

We recycle 70% of our annual waste of around 7,000 tonnes.

### **So what does the future hold?**

We see Ascot as a world stage enterprise at the beginning of its second 300 years. Our overall aim is to raise the standard across each of our strategic themes a little bit every year. Evolution rather than revolution. Lawyers will recognise the incremental approach. Simple, but not always easy.

At the end of the day we are a customer service international leisure business focused around sport offering a range of experiences according to taste and budget to



© Julie Fordham

Guy, centre, on duty

give everyone who comes a special day or evening out and a desire to make a wider contribution to our community. We aim to provide everyone with an original, elegant and uplifting experience. Whether as owners, gamblers, foodies, drinkers, racing anoraks, group partygoers, Royalty, Pearly Queens or rock stars, we seek to give them the care and attention they need to have enjoyment and fun so they want to come back.

Stripped to its essentials, I reflect that it is in substance what I had spent the previous 30 odd years doing – just a different type of service to an equally demanding and diverse range of customers. New wine in old bottles. Very refreshing.

**Guy Henderson (1976)**

## MEMORIES OF STUDYING ENGLISH IN THE LEAVIS ERA

**Chris Lowe (1958)** has been writing his memoirs about life in the latter half of the 20th century for his teenage granddaughter and has given permission for us to publish his account of reading English under Dr Leavis.

It was rare for pupils at my Midlands grammar school to go up to Cambridge or Oxford universities. I only applied to read English because an enlightened and enthusiastic English teacher at my school thrust a book into my hands one day and told me to read it. It was a book of quite startling literary criticism called *The Common Pursuit* by one F.R. Leavis. He was a Fellow of Downing College so that was that. This is how momentous events in one's life often come about, out of the blue.

What was particular about reading English under Dr Leavis? Well, I was attracted to the Leavis approach because literary criticism was not just an interesting discipline to him; it was an essential one, just as intellectually important as the discipline of scientific method and mathematical logic, or philosophical abstraction. To be truly life-enhancing and worthy of being a university subject, he claimed, literary criticism had to have its own method. It was after all claiming to be on a par with Science and Philosophy. He argued, along with his wife, Queenie Leavis, who was a Fellow of Girton College, that there was, of course, an objective way of thinking, as in scientific methodology, and a subjective way of thinking, as in Philosophy, but then there was a 'third way', adopted by literary studies and literary criticism. This was neither objective nor subjective. The student of English had his/her own 'discipline of thought'. As a student of literature, dealing with words and the relationship of words on a page, you put your views strongly and with precise evidence, asking as you do it, either explicitly or implicitly, '*This is so, is it not?*' The answer then comes in the form of, '*Yes, but.....*' Hence the whole process is both antagonistic and collaborative, the '*third way*'.

This is not as easy as it sounds. Leavis knew more than us, and knew his method better than us. Often many of us in our group would hold back fearing the withering glance and raised eyebrow. '*Well,*' he would say as one of us might have had the temerity to suggest a defence of say a Kipling or Housman poem, '*Perhaps the fault is in you, Lowe.*' It could be off-putting to young undergraduates, of course, and one certainly had to be resolute about the importance of one's own views, but it was a stimulating experience. By the third year I had cottoned on to the fact that he really did want us to carry on with our argument and to develop it steadfastly in the face of rigorous counter-arguments, but in the early days we just sank back into our chairs which were ranged around his room in West Lodge in a hollow square so that we all faced one another.

So, for most of us the first encounters with Leavis were formidable. He was sceptical about university lectures and preferred group tutorials, which he held two or three times a week, always attended by students from other colleges as well as the Downing groups. They were challenging events.

He based his teaching on dog-eared sheets of passages of prose and poetry, getting us to examine their characteristics and finally giving them a date and attributing them to an author if you could. The corollary was that you had to discuss aspects with the good doctor and the discussion tended to be one-sided! His passionate defence of the study of English at University was based on the rigour of argument and evidence but in a sequence which was, as I explained above, different from a philosopher's.

Sometimes I did question what I was getting out of Cambridge English. For example, on one occasion a copy of a new book on D.H. Lawrence, *The Dark Sun*, written by a lecturer from another college, Dr Graham Hough, arrived in a parcel as we were just about to start a session. He tore off the wrapping paper, looked at the book, thrust it out at arms-length, and then tossed it into the fire grate. '*Nothing Hough has to say on Lawrence can interest me in the least,*' he muttered. Theatrical but stirring stuff!

At first I thought, 'That's not very elevating', but then I realised that I was witnessing a world-renowned figure acting not like a dry old critic but as a spontaneous person, expressing his immediate feelings. We all have a right to respond emotionally, but having done so it was incumbent on the university teacher to apply his own method of collaborative argument and that is what he did. He turned to us all and said, '*Read it, if you have the time, and let me know what you think.*' I'm afraid I did not read it till years later.

If you are still not convinced that Leavis had a point in reacting so violently to a mere book then bear in mind the mauling that Leavis had suffered from the Cambridge 'establishment', and the unfair treatment of him and his coterie of 'Leavisites', as we were called. No doubt he might have handled criticism of himself rather better than he did, since he meted it out liberally, but in one of the few one-to-one conversations I had with him I was struck by a note of sadness that his 'enemies' would not take the trouble to understand the rigorous approach he brought to literary criticism, to the extent that editors of reviews sometimes did not even publish his letters nor pay him the courtesy of a reply. He was one of life's great irritants and no doubt we would all have felt easier if we never encountered his withering put-downs, but, my goodness, our responses to literature would have been far less stimulated and our thinking about life and its challenges and the human condition in general would have been far less enriched if we had never had such a driving force to reckon with. Like Winston Churchill, whether you liked him or not, you could not ignore him.

Most reprehensible were the snide remarks made by outsiders about Leavis's mode of dress – always an open shirt open down to his waist even on formal occasions. His critics

never bothered to discover that this was due to his experiences as a stretcher bearer and the effects of gassing in the First World War.

FRL can be fairly criticised for allowing his sensitivity to criticism by his enemies to spill over into cutting himself off from former students or friends if they went into print about him in a way he disapproved of. But I have to record that he showed nothing but kindness itself to his current students just embarking on our studies. If you asked him for time to mull over a particular topic he would find time. And I do not think there was any university English teacher who gave up more of his time to run group sessions for undergraduates in college

My most important supervisor at this time was Morris Shapira, a Henry James scholar with a sharp mind and extensive knowledge of a myriad of books and writers. Sessions with Morris were challenging and enjoyable. Eventually he left Cambridge to get promotion and moved to the University of Kent. In my third year I was also supervised by yet another brilliant scholar, Dr John Newton, who had taken over as deputy to Leavis in the College English department. He was excellent at dissecting my essays and getting me to defend my pronouncements. He had the knack of getting students to do their own criticism of their work, asking penetrating questions and letting you tease out your answers.

Another memorable supervisor was Dr John Stevens of Magdalene College. He was an expert in medieval literature and music, and his one-to-one supervisions with me were punctuated by his sudden leaps from his chair, grabbing a medieval instrument and strumming an illustrative tune. Great stuff – but only he and I could share it, and wonderful though the Oxbridge system of single or two-person tutorials might be, it suffered from the lack of stimulus from people who might have been able to invigorate the sessions with lively intervention. That is why I preferred Leavis's group sessions – not because I contributed much, but because I could soak in other's scholarship and learning.

Lectures should have been a highlight, but they were not. The great names we could listen to – Dr (soon to be Professor) Graham Hough, Professor Basil Willey, Professor C.S. Lewis, the extraordinary George (Dadie') Rylands, Fellow of King's College and founder of the Marlowe Society; T.R. Henn, Fellow and President of St. Catharine's College; and Dr Leavis himself and his wife, Q.D. (Queenie) Leavis – were all at or near normal retirement age, and much (in some cases, all) that they had to say they had been saying for years in lectures, books and essays. Most lectures were pretty desultory. Indeed, Leavis always said, *'Go if you must, but you will usually be better occupied in the library or your room.'* He much preferred the give and take of common discourse.

The first lecture I went to by T.R. Henn, Brigadier Henn as he was, and a Fellow of St Catharine's College, was truly memorable. *'Gentlemen,'* he started, then paused and added, *'And, of course ladies, too. – Shakespeare is not an egg; (pregnant pause); he is a tube of tooth-paste (pause); the more you squeeze him, the more that comes out.'* He

then stopped, glared down at the girls on the front row and said, *'Well, write that down. The girls usually do.'* You can tell from that, (and the fact that all suggestions of letting 'girls' join men's colleges caused most college Fellows to have apoplexy) that attitudes to women were very different in the 1950s.

C.S. Lewis's lectures on Chaucer and medieval literature were duller than you would expect from the writer of the Narnia chronicles. But he was getting close to the end of his life and was simply regurgitating what he had written years before in his acclaimed book *'Allegory of Love'*; but it was a privilege being able to hear him in person.

**FOR THE RECORD**

Details of Awards, Honours, Appointments, Publications, Performances, Marriages and Births can be found in Magenta News.

**OBITUARIES**

We receive notification of deaths of Members from a variety of sources. Some are accompanied by obituaries or eulogies from relatives or friends. Where we receive no such material and we find a published obituary we may use extracts from that with the publisher's permission. There are some Members for whom we have only the basic facts. Overall we try to include information which will be of interest to the contemporaries of the deceased as well as matters which may be of wider interest.

**LAURENCE STEPHEN ADKINS (1948)** died on 31 October 2017, aged 92. He read English. The following eulogy was given at his funeral:

Laurence Stephen Adkins was born in London on the 13 September 1925 to Gertrude (known as Ruby) and William Adkins. He had quite a privileged childhood, at times lonely as an only child, but he was loved by his parents. In fact his love of literature came from his father, an English teacher, who himself had read Shakespeare to his friends in the trenches during the 1st World War and Laurie was introduced to theatre, ballet and opera by his parents.

During the 2nd World War he was evacuated to Peterborough and on his return, attended Haberdashers School in North London. He signed up for National Service in the RAF in Gibraltar as part of the Education Department – helping soldiers with their literacy skills and this is where his love of Spain was sparked. During his time in Gibraltar he would visit the late Jim Ede (of Kettle's Yard fame in Cambridge) with his great friend, Trevor Beeson, where they would discuss literature, art and politics looking over the Straits of Gibraltar. His letters make fascinating reading of what inspired and irritated him as a young man.

After National Service, he attended Downing College to study English and was one of the fortunate to study under F.R. Leavis. However, Laurie was at times disenchanted with university and particularly the perceived pretentiousness of some of his peers who would talk about Oscar and Jane by their first names, as though they knew them personally! He said that the only thing that kept him at Cambridge was meeting Jacq at the Socialist Halloween Ball in 1948. She was wearing a red handmade ball gown and he fell in love instantly.

After teacher training in London he and Jacq returned to Guernsey in the late 50s with their firstborn daughter, Dany, to set up home in Le Catillon at Rocquaine. An active

member of the NUT, he taught in Primary education at the Castel and Vale Schools and also at the Boys Intermediate School. Whilst back in Guernsey he helped run The Children's Holiday Camp at Rocquaine with his father-in-law, Bert Brelsford and went on to have two more children, Ben and Jess. But Laurie was ambitious for promotion, so a move to England was made where he became Assistant Director of Education in Exeter. An offer of a job as Principal of Beauchamp College in the late 60s meant a move to Leicestershire and he held the position until he took early retirement in 1981. Beauchamp was a progressive flagship comprehensive school and community college and Laurie was proud to be able to promote his belief in a top class education for all young people regardless of background or ability.

On his early retirement he took up the position of Museum Education Officer back in Guernsey and set up the service which is still running today forging links between schools and museums. His numerous retirements also led him to set up a new series of retirement courses for the States of Guernsey and he was also involved in setting up the Workers' Educational Association in Guernsey. At the turn of the millennium Laurie began to attend the Quaker worship gatherings at Clifton as he recognised that his life-long held pacifist views fitted well with that form of worship.

Laurie spent much of his retirement writing a book about his life which he called 'Letters to his Grandchildren' and also did research and wrote about his father's experiences in the 1st WW in the Medical Corps in the Balkans. His children and grandchildren have these books as treasured memories of his love of writing and literature. Indeed Laurie was passionate about books. Jacq said it was his only vice and often wished he had more normal vices. He built up a library of classic novels and a fantastic collection of books about Spain, an interest that was reignited by his visits to Spain from 2001 onwards. Laurie also developed an interest in bird watching and listening to classical and flamenco music.

Laurie was a man of words. which for many who only met him since Jacq's death in 2008, may seem strange. But he loved words. As an English graduate he loved debating and he loved listening. His passion for books and journalism followed him throughout his life, but it is such a shame that Jacq's death and Laurie's accident meant that this core part of his soul disappeared almost overnight. His zest for the news, love of listening to music, browsing book shops and libraries was taken away from him. Another part of Laurie's character that many of you may find surprising was his volatility. He was a man of extremes. He would rage against injustices, small or large and exult in small successes. Living with him was always an interesting journey.

But one thing that shaped his character were his socialist beliefs. His life in education meant he would campaign for equal access to a top class education for everyone, as he was a great believer that every child had something to offer society and believed that every child had the right to equal opportunities. It was no surprise that the first thing

Laurie did when he got promoted to headship status was to bin the box of canes in his study. His belief in equal opportunities meant that his rather late affiliation to the Quakers was not a surprise. He realised that he had been a Quaker in essence all his life; peace, equality and acceptance of all and everyone.

His devotion to his family and grandchildren would manifest itself in a never ending emotional and practical support of all of their hopes and dreams. It was not unusual for him to do endless research on anything that might be troubling any one of them, in order to try and find a solution to a problem.

After spending the last couple of years in the care of Summerland House Nursing Home where he was treated with constant respect, dignity and kindness, Laurie died on Halloween. We like to think that he thought it would be a good day to see Jacq again – 69 years on from their first meeting. He was always very organised.

**HUGH ALDRED (1938)** died on 21 September 2017, aged 96. He read Natural Sciences. His son, Duncan, writes:

Hugh Aldred was born in 1920 in Eccles, Manchester. He attended The King's School, Chester from 1932–1938 and went on to study Natural Sciences at Downing College. On graduating from Cambridge, during the war, he was commissioned to work as a chemist for ICI in Manchester and at the end of the war, he joined his father at E. Noel Humphreys & Co, a firm of Chartered Accountants based in Chester. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1950 and subsequently became a Partner at the firm before setting up his own practice in 1971. He was an active part of the Chester business community for many years until his retirement in the mid-80's, providing financial services and advice to many local businesses. He was also the General Secretary to the Chester and District Chamber of Trade for 29 years and Honorary Secretary, and later Chairman, of The Chester & North Wales Society of Chartered Accountants.

Outside work he was a keen participant in many activities. Having learned and enjoyed rowing at school he pursued the sport at Cambridge and subsequently at Agecroft Rowing Club in Manchester which he successfully captained in 1946 culminating in an invitation to participate in trials for the Great Britain team for the 1947 Olympics. He was a keen golfer at both Chester Golf Club, where he became club champion in 1957 and later at Eaton Golf Club and Royal St Davids Golf Club. When he wasn't rowing or playing golf, he was often to be found on the banks of the River Dee with a fishing rod in hand, or in various bridge clubs around Chester and Waverton.

Hugh died in September 2017 at the age of 96 after a short illness. He is predeceased by his wife, Diana and younger brother, John. He is survived by his two children, Grace and Duncan and by six grandchildren.



**GODFREY ARTHUR (1951)** died on 7 May 2018, aged 86. He read Natural Sciences. His son **Richard (1984)** writes:

Godfrey came up from West Monmouthshire School to read natural sciences. After qualification at Westminster Medical School, he had house jobs at North Middlesex and Addenbrooke's hospitals and also taught anatomy at the University. He had senior registrar jobs in Leicester and Sheffield before becoming a consultant general surgeon in Worthing, where he spent the remainder of his career.

He enjoyed the company of his golf friends and was active in his local Rotary Club and Church. Godfrey had suffered from ill health for some time. He is survived by his wife, Carole, son, Richard, daughter, Jenny, and his three grandchildren.



**CECIL BENZECRY (1945)** died on 13 October 2017, aged 95. He read Law. His son, Edward, writes:

If the test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two entirely contradictory ideas in your mind at the same time, Cecil Benzecry was a master of the art. Born Jewish and educated Church of England, first at Downsend and then at Cranleigh, Cecil emerged a curious blend of both and neither. He was a fiercely creative solicitor – itself, some would say, a contradiction in terms – yet his passions lay in sport and his

happiest moments were with his family. His stubbornness was infamous, yet matched only by his curiosity and ability to innovate.

Cecil spent most of his early life in Leatherhead, where he moved from Central London at the age of 6. He was the first boy aged 6 to get into Downsend. At Cranleigh he was in the 1st XI for cricket and hockey, as well as representing the school in squash, shooting and 2nd XV rugby. He helped restart the Old Cranleighans Hockey Club in 1946, captaining the 1st XI in 1954–55 and remaining an active member for almost three decades.

In the War he trained at Bovington and completed his officer training at Sandhurst (for which he also played rugby) before joining the 141 Royal Armoured Corps. He was technically able and was offered Assistant Technical Adjutant, but preferred to stay in charge of his troop. Arriving in France in the fortnight after D-Day, he later suffered extensive burns while climbing into a burning tank in an effort to save his men still trapped inside.

After the War, Cecil studied Law at Downing before starting in practice as a solicitor. A great generalist, with a sharp mind, he developed three deep areas of expertise: corporate, property and tax law. He expanded his firm, Cardales, from a suburban business to a City law firm. He sat on the boards of several companies, represented corporate and celebrity clients, and pioneered the use of various special purpose vehicle (SPV) structures of his own invention on the Unlisted Securities Market (USM). He remained a respected name in the profession through to his retirement at 75.

Cecil married Susan de Meza Warren in July 1958. They were married for 56 years and Cecil was devoted to her. They moved into Linketty Cottage in Ashted before later moving to Linketty House, where they would spend their whole married lives and regularly hold court with friends and family – their four children, Toby, Olly, Edward and Lucy, and later, their seven grandchildren. In later years they travelled widely together.

He was always a keen sportsman. At the time of his death, at 95, he was the Old Cranleighans Hockey Club's oldest vice-president. Golf, bridge, tennis and squash became his games of choice long into old age, along with watching any televised sport imaginable.

Cecil attributed most of his life's successes to luck. This was typical of a man who in his bearing and character represented the best of an old generation – stoical, self-effacing, dignified and gracious. Cecil Benzecry will be remembered as a mischievous father and a loving husband, enormously respected by those who knew him, worked with him and crossed paths with him.

**MAYLING EDINA BIRNEY (1997)** died on 27 September 2017, aged 44. She took a Diploma in Economics.

Dr Birney, who was born in New Jersey on 30 December, 1972, was a graduate of Harvard, Yale and LSE. In addition to her degree work she taught, studied or conducted research at Oxford, Cambridge, Princeton as well as at both Peking University and Tsinhua University in Beijing.

In 2010 Dr Birney joined the Department of International Development at the LSE. She became a professor at the LSE and a scholar in comparative politics in China. Her work examined local politics in China, as well as the politics of decentralisation and corruption. Her principal area of research regarded the relationship between national and local politicians in China, more specifically the way that national officials used local elections to control provincial authorities and how local officials responded to the mandates of national party state officials. At the time of her death Dr Birney was in the final stages of completing *'The Rule of Mandates: Governing and Misgoverning China'*.



**GEOFFREY FRANCIS BISHOP (1950)** died on 3 April 2018, aged 88. He studied Natural Sciences. His daughter, Diane, writes:

From a Norwich council house beginning Dr Bishop went on to graduate from Downing College and in later years was awarded a PhD by the University of East Anglia. His professional career spanned the Army, forensic science, food research, teaching, university demonstrating and adult education lecturing.

Geoff's Ph.D. was a study of the population dynamics of a small rosette plant Mouse-ear Hawkweed. Basically he showed that the maintenance of *Heiracium pilosella* on Breck grasslands relies on low soil nutrients and an optimal level of rabbit activity. In all, the research led to four scientific papers and to what is known as the "Biological Flora" for that species.

Geoff was 88 years old and leaves behind a very closeknit family; his wife, four children, eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

These words below describe him perfectly.

That man is a success –  
 who has lived well, laughed often and loved much;  
 who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of children;  
 who has filled his niche and accomplished his task;  
 who leaves the world better than he found it;  
 who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it;  
 who looked for the best in others and gave the best he had.

**ERIC GILROY (ROY) BOUSFIELD (1942)** died on 17 May 2018, aged 93. He read Natural Sciences. His widow, Ann, writes:

Direction of Labour was in force when Roy left Downing so he worked on diseases affecting hops at the Institute of Research into Brewing in departments which are now parts of University of Manchester and Imperial College. On release he returned to his native Yorkshire to work in the laboratory of Craven Dairies Limited. The firm grew and became Associated Dairies which in due course became ASDA. He lived in Sunderland and Newcastle. In 1976 he was appointed Chief Executive of the ASDA Group and Vice Chairman, retiring in December 1987. In retirement he was involved in charity work, much of it for the disabled and he helped found the Harrogate Community House, which provides a base for over 30 charities. He received a Doctorate from Bradford University.



**ALLAN GEORGE BOWERS (1958)** died on 19 March 2018, aged 82. He read Economics. **Terry Oddy (1958)** and Allan's family write:

Allan came up to Downing in 1958 from Isleworth Grammar School where he had been Head Boy. He had sung in the choir, played in the school football team and became the senior athletics champion – his shot putt record lasting 17 years! Although his 'A' level subjects were English, French and History, Allan came to Downing to read Economics.

Like many of the 1958 matriculants, Allan had to do two years National Service and he served in the RAF, stationed at Horsham St Faith near Norwich, where he was assigned to an air sea rescue helicopter squadron as a radio fitter. Clearly he did not wish his brain to atrophy as, during his service, he went to 'night' school in Norwich and passed 'A' level Economics as a preparation for the degree course under Malcolm Fisher as his Director of Studies. On the College sporting side Allan concentrated on football, playing as a rugged full back for the 1st XI.

After graduation, Allan joined Barclays Bank, initially in the retail sector at the Northfields branch where he suffered the unnerving experience of being held up at gunpoint, but lived to tell the tale! Subsequently he moved to Barclays Head Office in Lombard Street where his work included the development of the Barclays Credit Card.

In the mid-1960s the National Giro was set up and Allan joined that organization being involved with the development of this innovative banking system. The National Giro was the first bank to be designed with computerised operations in mind and a major computing centre was established in Bootle on Merseyside, Allan spending an amount of time in the North West.

Allan's next career move was into the building societies sector when he joined the Hastings and Thanet Building Society, causing a family move from West London to Bexhill. Following various Society takeovers, including the South of England, he became part of the Anglia Building Society (later renamed the Nationwide Building Society and then Nationwide) in Northampton. Here he specialised in pensions and investments which role included meeting clients in Tokyo, Stockholm and Paris. He became the South of England Area Manager with a range of responsibilities including the opening of a number of small local branches. He was subsequently promoted to become one of the Society's General Managers.

After leaving Nationwide Allan joined Nene College (now Northampton University) and lectured in banking and economics until his retirement.

Allan was married twice. His first wife, Doreen, whom he had married in 1962, sadly died in 1997. He met his second wife, Mary, in 2000, on a trip to the Oberammergau

Passion Play and they were married 12 months later. From his first marriage he had two children, Maria and Paul, Paul pre-deceasing Allan at the young age of 34.

In 2006 whilst on holiday with Mary in Gran Canaria, Allan suffered a severe stroke. The local Rotary Group was instrumental in arranging for Allan and Mary to be flown back to the UK and he was transferred to hospital in Northampton. However, the delay in receiving treatment, meant that Allan suffered mobility and speech problems which he endured for the rest of his life. He was constantly in receipt of physiotherapy to alleviate the problems but, while the brain was as active as it had ever been, the frustrations of his physical constraints clearly irked him. The determination and drive which had given him a very successful and active business career were still evident in this later stage of his life. He taught himself to write left-handed and continued to be involved in Rotary activities and as treasurer of St Mathews Church in Northampton.

His funeral service was held at Brampton Parish Church in the Northamptonshire village that he had lived in for the major part of his life. He was interred in the same Church grounds in which Doreen's and Paul's ashes had been buried.

**PAUL ANDRE-MARIE BRONNE (1953)** died on 29 April 2018, aged 85. He read History followed by Law.

**ALEXANDER CAMPBELL BROWN (SANDY) (1950)** died on 29 April 2017, aged 85. He read Medicine, taking his BA, BChir and MB at Downing, graduating in 1956. He returned to Downing for his MD in 1965. He was a Senior Lecturer/Consultant Psychiatrist at the Welsh College of Medicine and a Research Fellow, then Consultant Senior Lecturer at Bristol University.



As reported briefly in the 2017 Newsletter, **WILLIAM MALCOLM BUSSEY (1960)** died on 22 August 2016. His son, Neale (1984), writes:

My father died of motor neurone disease at his home in Uppingham, Rutland. He attended Heath Grammar School, Halifax – a small, wiry lad, showing some promise both on the sports field and academically. He was a fine cricketer, but his talents as both a rugby footballer and as an athlete were truly outstanding. With an amazing sidestep – practiced on the way

to school around the lamp standards along Huddersfield Road – Malcolm earned a place in the Yorkshire Schools XV three years in a row, graduating to England Schools in his final

year. On the athletics track, he broke the Inter Grammar Schools quarter mile record, and won the England Schools 440 yards in 1959.

His academic attainment supported his sporting prowess, seeing him go up to Downing to read Natural Sciences, and to play rugby. He was an unbeaten three-time Blue. The 1961 Blues team won all of their pre-Christmas matches, earning themselves the nickname "The Invincibles". Malcolm was selected for the "Probables" team for an England trial but, unhappily, his wrist was broken in the Varsity match three weeks prior to the trial and his chance of international honours slipped away. In 1963 he was selected for the combined Oxford and Cambridge tour to South Africa. Many topflight rugby clubs were keen for him to join them after leaving Cambridge. He was once selected for both Harlequins and Rosslyn Park on the same day – and failed to turn up for either team, as he had played for Cambridge the day before!

He married his childhood sweetheart – Michele [née Rhodes] – at All Saints Church, Halifax on 15 August 1964 and they were blessed with three children – Neale, Michael and Tracey – and five grandchildren – Nicole, Rebecca, Kate, Kameron and Tiger.

On leaving Downing in 1963, he began and, 42 years later, ended his teaching career at Uppingham School. He was a dedicated and inspirational chemistry teacher, master in charge of rugby, Housemaster for 16 years and, finally, Senior Master until his retirement.

His reputation at the School was immediately enhanced by his rugby career with Leicester Tigers, where he was known as 'The King,' playing over 121 first team games between 1963 and 1967. His rugby career ended due to injury, after which his fierce competitive spirit and sporting prowess were exercised at The Luffenham Heath Golf Club, where he served as Captain in 2013.

He bore motor neurone disease with fortitude and in the certainty that he had been worthy of great acclaim in his roles as son, husband, father, grandfather, sportsman, teacher, friend, Heath Old Boy, Downing Alumni and – throughout – an archetypal Yorkshireman.



**WILLIAM CASHMORE (1980)** died on 9 November 2017, aged 56. He read Geography followed by English. His friend, **Simon Cowper (1980)**, writes:

William (in deference to his mother) or Bill, and indeed Billy, was the third of four children and grew up in Edwalton to the south of Nottingham. He was educated at Denstone College before coming up to Downing to read Geography. After finishing Part I, he switched to English and the study of literature, for which he had a lifelong passion. This allowed him



Bill as Fred Trueman

to explore, reflect on, and experiment with the language that was to become a crucial ingredient in his career as a performer and writer.

Bill was a character. This was evident from the moment you met him: his ebullient energy and larger-than-life expressions, his love of absurdity and teasing chosses (a word that he introduced into my vocabulary) marked him out as a vibrant and dynamic member of College. He was, to coin a phrase, full of beans, a trait that was mirrored perhaps in his love of *The Beano* and later in life by his global collection of baked bean tins (and subsequently just labels, when the contents turned hazardous). He was an avid collector, of facts and figures, of sporting memorabilia (including shelves full of Wisden and lists of quirky names – the Burnley and Stockport County footballer Michael Wardrobe springs to mind), of anecdotes, comic moments, and latterly of places, fuelled by an enduring love of travel and interest in the people he met on his way. Bill would record much of this in his tiny and immaculate handwriting, a script that packed, as he did, a huge amount into a small space. Pithy, incisive, uncontrived, it was as if his writing was a form of compression, the distilled essence of what he saw, felt, and experienced.

Bill was also a creator of characters. He was adept at finding the key to an individual's persona and fleshing out a trait to comic (and sometimes satirical) effect. His take on people was typically good-natured and if he liked to rib, it was at the expense of self-importance or vanity, a gentle bringing-down-to-earth. While his first years at Cambridge were marked by his passion for sport and the prowess he showed on various courts and pitches, excelling most notably at hockey and cricket – sports that he continued to play after Cambridge in both London and West Bridgford – his humour and love of language eventually led him into drama and comedy. After an early show-stealer as the caretaker in Trevor Griffiths's *Comedians*, he graduated to the Mummers, ETG, and Footlights, which allowed him to set his sights more precisely on the acting world. He went on to appear in a variety of TV series, including *Casualty*, *Brass Eye*, *Fist of Fun*, and (serendipitously) *The Bill*. A natural highlight for him was his casting as Fred Trueman in a 1989 episode of *All Creatures Great and Small*. This neatly combined two of his passions and enabled him to showcase his bowling skills in an impressive display of method acting. In 1992, he made the bold move of co-founding the company Actors in Industry. What began as a small role-play business grew to become one of the UK's largest and most influential coaching organisations, pioneering radical techniques for training communication, negotiation, and leadership skills across a broad range of corporate sectors. This proved to be an

immensely successful venture, and Bill reaped the fruits of it for many years, celebrating the company's 25th anniversary in style with a huge party in September last year. As the work evolved, he developed an increasing interest in what makes people tick and eventually took time out to do a diploma in counselling in Australia. He also honed his writing skills over time, at first writing plays and pantomimes in conjunction with co-author Andy Powrie and subsequently branching out on his own to pen three one-act plays. His work *Daughter* was to win him the Best Play Award at the INK Festival in 2016 and later transferred to the Pleasance Theatre in London.

Most importantly perhaps, Bill was a man of character, and this was something that became increasingly evident as he grew older. Although he had been interested in teaching and had a stint at Moffats School in Shropshire in the early 1980s, he had a more unconventional way of imparting his gifts, embodying the lessons he considered to be valuable. For many years he ran marathons in support of causes he felt strongly about. He abhorred injustice and hypocrisy and would call it out whenever he had the chance. He was incensed by environmental abuse and took a keen interest in health matters, converting to vegetarianism and then joining the Green Party, which he went on to represent in the Chelsea and Fulham constituency at the 2017 General Election. Bill chose what he loved with care and stayed true to his choices. As a Nottingham Forest fan, he remained loyal to the club and a fervent supporter, long after the glory days had passed. He was not one to be hurried and he gave time for his emotions to flower. He was in his forties when he met Sasha Bates, whom he married in 2005. He was a devoted husband. Although he and Sasha had no children of their own, Bill was a family man through and through. As an uncle and godfather, he would fastidiously nurture and tend his relationships with his young "charges", missing no opportunity to bestow the generosity and quirkiness of his view of life upon them.

By a strange twist of fate, Bill died on 9 November, the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. We had visited the city in 1983 and even played football beside the Brandenburg Gate but amidst all the larking about, the wall was anathema to Bill. He was not one for dividing and separating people and one of his many gifts was his skill in creating and maintaining contacts, a talent that he put into service for the College, acting as our Year Representative for the best part of a decade and networking with his contemporaries as he reeled in what he called "snippets of information" for *Magenta News*. He had an extraordinarily wide and far-reaching group of friends and was passionate about creating an environment where all could thrive, one that he nurtured with both humour and dedication. Having lived life with his heart full to the brim, it was a sudden tear to the aorta that proved fatal to him. Snatched from life in all his vigour, bursting with plans and projects, Bill was an exceptional character who will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.



**ROBERT JAMES CATON ( 1943)** died on 1 August 2017, aged 92. He read History, Politics and Economics. His daughter, Julie, writes:

Born on 19 February 1925 in Olney, Buckinghamshire and educated at Bedford School, my father joined the Royal Navy at the age of 18 and went to Cambridge in 1943 on a short course. He was fortunate to be allocated to Downing College despite it being full, even though it was war time. Part of the course was to assign him to Highgate as a Fire Watchman and he admitted

the most frightening part of it was witnessing German aircraft dropping bombs on London. During a meeting to set up a welfare committee at Downing, he volunteered to be a writer and became secretary. This episode led him to a career in charity and welfare work

He joined HMS Bonaventure which carried midget submarines. It was at the 60th anniversary of VE day on 10 July 2005 he met a man who was a midget submarine operative . Due to such high security on board the ship, naval ratings were not allowed to speak with the sub-mariners so this was the first time they had met. He was later assigned to HMS Jamaica, a heavy cruiser where he was based in the Far East.

His final appointment was Assistant Secretary to the Commander in Chief East Indies on HMS Glasgow. In 1947 he was de-mobbed and subsequently served in the naval reserves as Lieutenant Commander for some 25 years.

Robert joined Gilbert & Sons, a firm of accountants in St Albans from 1947 – 1952 as an auditor. On 1 July 1950 he married Jean at St Michael's church in Watford. They moved to Watford in 1965 where they remained married until her death in 2016. Jean persuaded Robert to change his career direction and in 1952 he joined the Chartered Auctioneers & Estate Agents Institute and remained with them until the unification in 1970 when he was appointed Secretary of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' Benevolent Fund. He often said that sound advice was more important than just giving money to beneficiaries.

Apart from his career, Robert joined Watford Borough Council in 1959 and became a Councillor from 1961 – 1974 before becoming Alderman. He contributed a great deal and helped to build the thriving town that Watford is today. He was elected Mayor of Watford in 1972 – 3. It was a busy time for him and my mother Jean but he thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Robert retired from the RICS in 1991 but remained as a volunteer with charities such as Professional Aid Guild and the Association of Charity Officers. He said he found great satisfaction in helping people.

Sadly Robert's health deteriorated rapidly due to Parkinson's disease but with the help from the family and carers he was able to remain in his house with dignity. He leaves a daughter and two granddaughters .



**ALAN MICHAEL CLARK (1974)** died on 26 July 2017, aged 61. He read Mathematics and then Computer Science. His friend, the Reverend Roger Smith, writes:

Alan was born in Blackpool on 20 September 1955 to parents Harry and Brenda and grew up there with younger sister, Krysia. He did well at school and was the first in his family to go to university.

At Cambridge, Alan was active in the student Methodist Society making many good friends. It was through MethSoc that he heard of a project in Nottingham seeking a lay worker. Alan applied, was appointed and moved to Nottingham. In November 1977, Alan with Andy Stoker and Roger Smith moved into an inner-city terraced house to begin a radical experiment in Christian community living at the heart of the Radford area undergoing the upheaval of slum clearance and redevelopment. Alan spent the first year completing teacher training and then immersed himself in children's play schemes, community newspapers, carnivals, tenants' and residents' groups and every aspect of Radford Methodist Church. He was a great organiser, served as a school governor and joined the Labour Party.

Continuing to live at the community house, Alan got a job at Loughborough Technical College in 1981 and was a lecturer (and later team leader) in computing for 25 years where students appreciated his attention to detail. He wrote a text book and co-authored another. After taking voluntary redundancy, Alan carried on teaching with Open University tutoring and, right up until his final illness, helping a young neighbour with her school maths.

In 1988 Alan was elected to Nottingham City Council as a Labour councillor in Byron ward and a little later bought a house in that part of the city, another reflection of his incarnational theology. He undertook countless political duties: one was giving Tony Benn a lift to a meeting in Alan's Reliant Robin and another was acting as agent for Eunice Campbell. This latter relationship became more than a political union and Alan and Eunice were married on 11 April 1998. Alan's family, including nephew Gary and niece Michelle, was extended to include Eunice's son Rene, her six siblings and eighteen nephews and nieces and the wider African Caribbean family and community.

Everyone who knew Alan would agree with a former Chief Executive of Nottingham City Council when he said that meeting Eunice was the best thing that ever happened to Alan. They were in many ways so different from each other, but so good for each other. They shared their political life, both serving as Councillors for Bulwell Forest ward from 2003; they shared their strong Christian faith; they went on holidays all over the world together; they enjoyed their large circle of family, neighbours, friends and colleagues.

Alan had suffered lung problems since childhood, contracted Legionnaires' disease as an adult and finally it was a lung infection that he was unable to overcome. The large St Mary's Church in Nottingham's Lace Market was packed for Alan's funeral service. His nephew Gary spoke movingly of childhood memories of Uncle Alan taking him and his sister to places for them to play whilst Alan found a quiet corner to read his book. Former work colleague and fellow Methodist preacher Ray Heasley described the enormous piles of paper on and around Alan's college desk into which he would delve to prove a point. Deputy leader of Nottingham City Council, Cllr Graham Chapman said Alan's legacy was not represented by plaques or memorials but in social housing built, solar panels provided, ward surgeries attended and all the things Alan did which continue today to make a real difference to the lives of thousands of Nottingham residents. As Portfolio Holder for Energy and Sustainability, Alan played a leading role in working for a greener city. On a personal note, Cllr. Chapman added that without Alan he'd have no-one to discuss the minutiae of Council procedures or observe misplaced apostrophes. The priest at St Mary's, Rev. James Saxton, summed up Alan's life as one of great Christian service, true in every sphere of his all too short life.

**SIMON JOHN SCOTT CLARKE (1960)** died on 12 October 2017, aged 79. He read History. Simon was born in Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, in 1938. He attended Alleyn Court Prep School and Wellington College. Before he could take his place up, he had to do his National Service in the Royal Marines.

At Cambridge he represented the University at cricket. He also played county-level hockey and squash and achieved a single-figure handicap at golf. Simon also acted in College plays.

In 1962 he was selected for the University rugby match. He made such an impression in Cambridge's victory that he was fast-tracked into the final England trials. He played in the 1963 England team that won the Five Nations championship and later that year toured New Zealand and played against the All Blacks. Soon afterwards he toured Kenya, Rhodesia and South Africa with the Oxbridge side, playing 12 matches in six weeks and beating the full Rhodesian side, losing only to Combined Universities. He also made ten appearances for the Barbarians including against New Zealand in 1964, later captaining against Penarth and Swansea. Clarke played his last international against Scotland in March 1965, having won 13 caps.

Simon worked in sales and marketing for a number of companies, before joining the careers organization Inspiring Future and later being a mentor at King's College School, Wimbledon.

**BRIAN FRANCIS COOK (1954)** died on 6 January 2018, aged 84. He read Classics. He attended St Bede's Grammar School in Bradford. After National Service he attended the British School in Athens to study pots called lekythoi. He worked at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York until the late 1960s. He returned to London to become Assistant Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum becoming Keeper from 1976 to 1993. During his tenure he had to handle the dispute with the Greek Government over the Parthenon Sculptures (the Elgin Marbles). An article written by Brian in *Museum Watch* just after he retired included the following:

“Shortly before my recent retirement, I was asked what I was most proud of during my Keepership. I suppose I could have mentioned new permanent galleries, or special exhibitions, or my success in recruiting and fund-raising, or even my contributions to scholarship, but I found myself saying: “Having been Keeper, looking back fifty years at a small working-class schoolboy in a grim schoolyard off a back street in central Bradford, who would have guessed that one evening he would be standing in a dinner jacket in a gallery at the British Museum, looking at an ornate Roman marble latrine from the Townley Collection, and wondering just how to reply to a brisk question of “What’s that?” from her Majesty the Queen? It has been said of a classical education that it teaches you how to think, how to grasp the essential detail and how to express it. I was never more grateful for my classical education than then.”

**BRIAN DAVID CUMING (1951)** died on 23 May, 2017, aged 89. He studied for a PhD at Downing followed by a Research Fellowship at Trinity Hall.

**HENRY MARK DARLOW (1934)** died on 27 June 2018, aged 101. He read Natural Sciences.

Henry Darlow was born on 12 July 1916 and educated at Bedford School. His father Henry was Town Clerk of Bedford and also a former alumnus of Downing. He rowed for the College and was a member of the Lent crew for 1937, exactly thirty years after his father had rowed in the same crew.

He went on to qualify in medicine and served as a surgeon lieutenant in the Royal Navy during World War II. Later he worked in biological research for the Ministry of Defence and subsequently as a civil servant attached to the Ministry of Health.

His wife Daphne predeceased him by four years and he is survived by his five children.

**JAMES DUNCAN GORDON DAVIDSON OBE (1949)** died on 29 June 2017, aged 90. He took a Certificate of Competence in Russian. The following obituary appeared in the *Herald*, written by David Torrance and we are very grateful to the *Herald* and Mr Torrance for agreeing to its reproduction:

James Davidson, who has died aged 90, was an old-school Liberal MP concerned with farming, Highland development and “Home Rule” for Scotland. As the MP for West Aberdeenshire, he was ahead of his time in introducing a Private Member’s Bill – the Scotland and Wales (Referenda) Bill – to conduct plebiscites in Scotland and Wales to gauge the public mood on constitutional reform. While his bill fell at its Second Reading in February 1969, it received strong support from the Scotsman newspaper and helped the Scottish Liberal Party rejuvenate its support for “Home Rule all Round” and compete with a then resurgent SNP.

James Duncan Gordon Davidson was born on 10 January 1927, to Alastair Davidson and his wife Valentine (née Osborne). Educated at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, and Downing College, Cambridge, he went on to serve in the British Navy and as naval attaché at the British Embassy in Moscow. In 1947, he became a Member of the Royal Victorian Order and, in 1955, married Catherine Ann Jamieson, with whom he had a son and two daughters.

After several years as a farmer, in the mid-1960s Davidson was selected to fight the West Aberdeenshire constituency on behalf of the Liberals. At the 1964 General Election he came a good second to the Unionist incumbent Forbes Hendry, going on to defeat him two years later with a majority of more than a thousand, benefitting in part from a UK-wide Liberal “revival”. He was one of four Liberal gains, taking the party back to its post-war tally of a dozen MPs.

Davidson’s maiden speech dealt at length with the myriad concerns of a large constituency covering more than 2,000 square miles: Highland depopulation, forestry, skiing, water supplies, the needs of small farmers and improved transport links. He urged a North-east Scotland development authority similar to the Highlands and Islands Development Board later established.

His own family, he told MPs, had been associated with Aberdeenshire for more than half a century. “Before that,” Davidson added light-heartedly, “they were either Highland renegades or Scandinavian marauders, so I have a certain tradition to live up to.”

Thereafter, Davidson acted as Liberal Party spokesman on defence and foreign affairs, a high-profile role given the ongoing Vietnam War and Labour’s plans to scale back British forces “East of Suez”. In July 1966, he and a couple of colleagues caused controversy by calling for NATO to be “reformed and overhauled considerably”, a line discussed in party councils but not official policy.

When Jo Grimond stood down as UK Liberal leader in 1967, he apparently asked if Davidson would consider running as his successor. He declined, although he took a long

time to decide whom he would back. Eventually, the evening before the ballot, Davidson was taken by David Steel to see Jeremy Thorpe at his London flat where, “after much talk and whisky”, he finally agreed to give Thorpe his vote, a decision, along with several colleagues, he came to regret.

Although Davidson’s bill to hold consultative constitutional referendums in Scotland and Wales ultimately failed, the idea eventually became political orthodoxy, the first territorial referendum being held in 1973 (in Northern Ireland), UK-wide in 1975 (on continuing membership of the Common Market) and in Scotland and Wales in 1979. Speaking in the House of Commons in 1969, Davidson denied his bill was a “concession to the Nationalists”, but rather built on Liberal policy of six decades standing. It was, he argued, “a straightforward attempt to find out what form of government would be most acceptable to the majority of the peoples of Scotland and Wales – nothing more and nothing less. The Scotland and Wales (Referenda) Bill offered the people of Scotland and Wales four “clear” choices: the status quo; devolving additional powers to the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales and Scottish and Welsh Grand Committees; establishing devolved parliaments within a federal UK; and, finally, “complete independence within the British Commonwealth”.

After only one term as an MP, Davidson felt obliged not to contest the 1970 General Election due to a family illness. Although Davidson campaigned strongly to keep the seat in Liberal hands, it was regained for the Conservatives by the colourful Colonel Colin “Mad Mitch” Mitchell, famous for his maverick role in Aden. Out of Parliament, Davidson served as Chief Executive of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland until 1992, of which he became a Fellow. He also remarried, going on to have another son with Janet Stafford. In 1984 he was awarded an OBE and, in retirement, chaired the Clan Davidson Association while producing a number of books on naval history.

James Davidson died peacefully at his home in Newtonmore, Inverness-shire.

**GERARD ANTHONY DELANEY (1949)** died in 2016, aged 87. He read History followed by Law.

**ANTHONY IAN DOYLE (1942)** died on 4 February 2018, aged 92. He read English followed by a PhD. Tony Edwards writes:

Born in 1925, Ian Doyle went up to Downing on an open scholarship in October 1942 and graduated with a double First in English in 1945. He stayed on to undertake a PhD on Middle English religious writings that was completed in 1953.

In October 1950 Ian moved to Durham to take up a position in the University Library. He remained in Durham for the rest of his life. He was Keeper of Rare Books and Reader in Bibliography before taking early retirement to pursue his researches on medieval scribes and manuscripts and their readers and owners, and on early printed books. His writings in these and other fields were extensive and appeared in numerous scholarly journals and contributions to books. There are lists of his publications (well over two hundred) in a collection of papers in his honour, *New Science out of Old Books*, ed. Richard Beadle & A. J. Piper (Scolar Press, 1995) and in *The Book Collector* (Winter, 2015).

Over the course of a distinguished scholarly career he was made a Fellow of the British Academy, a Corresponding Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America, and a member of the Comité International Paléographie Latine. He delivered the Lyell Lectures in Bibliography at Oxford in 1967. He was awarded the Chancellor's Medal of Durham University in 2010 and the Gold Medal of the Bibliographical Society in 2014. His publications, which extended over a period of more than seventy years, were prodigious in their range and conspicuous for the quality of their scholarship. Few scholars have dedicated themselves so unremittingly to the service of their fields of study over so long a period.

**JOSEPH RICHARD EDDOWES (1940)** died on 7 August 2017, aged 95. He read Mathematics.



**JOHN EDSALL (1943)** died on 2 July 2016, aged 91. He read Natural Sciences. His daughter, Mary Agnes Edsall, writes:

John Edsall came up to Downing to read Medicine\* from Epsom College. The photograph shows him coxing the 1944 3rd Lent Boat during his undergraduate days. In those wartime years, medics only stayed up for two years before

being packed off to their teaching hospitals to complete their training, in John Edsall's case at King's College Hospital.

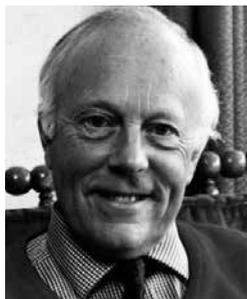
He was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and went on a medical aid tour of Sri Lanka, before taking up residences in Bellevue and Roosevelt Hospitals in New York in 1954. He completed his career at the age of 78, the Head of the Chest Clinic at Columbia Presbyterian, New York, and Clinical Professor in its Chest Division. He leaves

\* At that time Medicine at Cambridge consisted of a Natural Sciences BA followed by practical medicine training.

a widow, Margaret Tobin and four children, his daughter Anne-Marie having pre-deceased him. He was followed to Downing by two nephews, François (1971) and Nicolas Vainker (1974), and a great-nephew Edward Vainker (1999).

**DEREK ELY (1944)** died on 12 January, 2018, aged 91. He read Mechanical Sciences. Wing Commander Ely was born on 27 January, 1926 in Sutton Coldfield and attended St Nicholas School (1931–36), Central High School (1936–7) and Bishop Vesey's Grammar School (1937–42), all in Sutton Coldfield, before a year at Birmingham Central Technical College (1942–3). He was admitted as an RAF Cadet to Downing in April 1944, matriculating in May, one of several 'Candidates for commissions in the RAF allocated to Cambridge University for the Short Course' (Science). He rowed at stroke in the 3rd May Boat 1944. Wing Commander Ely went down in September 1944 after passing the RAF Science exam.

**HENRY FRANCIS ENGLEHEART (1951)** died on 20 November 2017, aged 87. He read Estate Management.



**ANGUS RODERICK DURIE MILLER (FARQUHARSON) OBE (1953)** died on 10 January 2018, aged 82. He read History followed by Archaeology and Anthropology. The following obituary appeared in the *Herald*, written by Alasdair Steven and we are very grateful to the *Herald* and Mr Steven for agreeing to its reproduction:

Sir Angus Farquharson of Finzean, who has died aged 82, was a respected public figure throughout the Highlands and prominent in many environmental organisations, including The Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland, the Red Deer Commission and Scottish Natural Heritage. He was a distinguished Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire (1998–2010), Deputy Lieutenant in 1984 and Vice Lord-Lieutenant in 1987.

Sir Angus wrote *Finzean: the Fair Place* – his opening paragraph included, “High up in the Grampian hills, a lovely little river winds gently down through heather covered moors. It passes by an ancient pine wood, recognised today as one of the last remnants of the Old Caledonian Forest ... All this richly diverse area is aptly called Finzean meaning in Gaelic the fair place.” The book reflected his love of the area that had been the home of the Farquharson family for 400 years.

He was a strong supporter of the Clan Farquharson and was the clan's honorary vice-president often wearing its tartan with obvious pride. The clan society was founded in 2001 and Sir Angus and Lady Farquharson attended the first gathering and remained regulars at AGMs and annual dinners, including one at Finzean House. Despite not being born a Farquharson, he was keen to maintain clan traditions and Alan Caig, the president of the clan society, told *The Herald*: "A few years ago when Captain Colin Farquharson of Whitehouse died I met Angus at our clan cairn, Cairn na Cuimhne, on the banks of the River Dee near Balmoral. He had come especially to lay a stone on the cairn in remembrance of Colin, as used to be the practice when highlanders went into battle: thus started the practice of laying a stone on the cairn in remembrance of clan members who pass away. "We have maintained that tradition since and two of our young members laid a stone on the cairn in remembrance of Lady Farquharson and we shall doubtless lay a stone in August in remembrance of Angus."

Angus Roderick Durie Miller was born in Northumberland but the family moved to Aberdeen as his father was a GP and, on the outbreak of war, he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. Sir Angus attended Lathallan School and Glenalmond College where he became involved in the launch of a glider with Sir Angus as pilot. Unfortunately it crashed and he broke his back which made him unfit for military service – which he much regretted.

In 1953 Sir Angus went up to Downing College, Cambridge where he studied archaeology and anthropology. In 1961, he married Alison Mary Farquharson of Finzean, daughter of W. M. Farquharson-Lang CBE the 14th Laird of Finzean and adopted the surname of Farquharson. He also studied chartered surveying and land management.

Sir Angus began farming the land at Finzean in 1969 gradually and shrewdly expanding the farm over the years. When he handed it over to his son Andrew in 1993 he farmed a herd of 150 suckler cows and 200 acres of spring barley. He remained active throughout the community and brought his wise council to numerous local institutions – notably the Kincardine/Deeside Scouts, the Peterhead Sea Cadets, the regional committee of the Forestry Commission and the Finzean School of Piping. Nationally he was a prominent figure in many environmental and nature concerns. Sir Angus served on The Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland for nine years and a year as its Chairman and the North East Committee for Scottish Natural Heritage. In 1995, he was awarded an OBE for his services to forestry and the community.

He was a director of the Scottish Traditional Skills Training Centre and further involved with the countryside when he served on the Red Deer Commission (1986–92). Robbie Kernahan now of Scottish National Heritage worked with Sir Angus on the Deer Commission and told *The Herald*: "Angus' knowledge and expertise was instrumental in helping develop the policies of the commission providing culling strategies for estates and improving the management of deer throughout Scotland."

Sir Angus was a strong supporter of the kirk and had been an elder in his local church since 1969 and acted as a general trustee of the Church of Scotland. He furthered the Finzean community through his support for the Birse Community Trust which initiates schemes to make available low-cost housing for young local families and the gifting of land for sheltered housing. His devotion to the clan was total. As Mr Caig recalls, "Angus was a quietly spoken man and one of the kindest and most courteous people I have ever met. He cared deeply for the clan and its members and would show a personal interest in everybody. He supported us in all that we did and it was that personal concern that endeared him to everyone."

Sir Angus was made a KCVO in 2010 at a ceremony at Holyrood Palace. He became a Commander of the Order of St John in 2009 and had been an officer since 2002. He was also a keen gardener, walked the hills with his dogs and furthered his interest in local history in his extensive library.

Lady Farquharson predeceased Sir Angus; their daughter, two sons and eight grandchildren survive him.



**HELEN FORD (née CHAPMAN) (1981)** died on 6 June 2018, aged 54. She read Natural Sciences (Physics and Theoretical Physics). Her husband, **Ian Ford (1981)** writes:

Helen was born in Loughborough, Leicestershire, in 1963, but grew up in Tickenham, Somerset where she attended Clevedon Comprehensive School. She was a member of the second cohort of women undergraduates that was admitted to Downing. To the considerable shock and sadness of her family and friends, she has died of a rare neuroendocrine cancer, diagnosed only very recently.

Helen followed a career in optical science and engineering after graduating with a BA in 1984. In her first job, as Scientific Officer in the Biophysics group at the AFRC Institute of Food Research, Norwich, she researched the structures and gelation properties of food biopolymers using optical methods, particularly laser light scattering. She moved to the University of Reading in 1988, initially to carry out research in soil science, but she decided instead to study further for an MSc in Applied and Modern Optics, graduating in 1989 with a distinction to add to her Cambridge MA, awarded in 1987. Her next step was to embark on a PhD in Optical Sensing at Cranfield University, where she was awarded the Lord Kings Norton annual prize for the outstanding Cranfield thesis of 1994. Subsequently, as a Postdoctoral Research Assistant, she undertook research projects in flow measurement systems using fibre optic methods.

In 1988 she married Ian Ford, whom she met at Downing, and had two sons, Alex and Jonathan, in 1996 and 1999 respectively. They lived in Bicester, Oxfordshire, from 1991 to

2001, and thereafter in Little Brickhill, Buckinghamshire. She took blocks of maternity leave and worked part-time in the period 1996–2003, while the children were very young. In 2003 she was awarded a Daphne Jackson Fellowship to make a return to cutting edge research in the field of optical coherence tomography in the Centre for Engineering Photonics at Cranfield. In 2006 she won first prize in the Higher Education and Learning Institutions category of the British Female Innovators Network (BFIIIN) for this work. She supervised a number of PhD students and postdoctoral research assistants and played an important role in bringing research funding into the Centre. She was made Lecturer in Optical Sensors in 2015.

Helen combined a demanding scientific career with being a devoted mother, working part-time to allow a balance to be struck. In addition, she served as chair of the Parent Teacher Association and established a Science Club at the local primary school and was a central figure in organising the annual Village Gardening Show. She was a skilled plantswoman and worked tirelessly in her large garden, which she loved. She worked with the Friends of Aylesbury Music Centre. She carried out science and engineering outreach activities in secondary schools and tutored local girls in preparation for GCSE Mathematics, since she had a particular interest in encouraging greater female participation in STEM subjects as a career.

Her illness came at a point when life was to have become less busy, with the boys away studying Chemistry and Mathematics at Imperial and Cambridge, respectively. But after receiving her diagnosis she took a characteristically rational and practical approach to dealing with her situation, focussing on the positive aspects of her life and of the world around her. She was greatly loved, and will be deeply missed, by her family as well as her very large circle of friends and colleagues.



**ROBIN FROST (1972)** died on 22 March 2018 aged 65. He read Law followed by an LLB. His friend and colleague, **Francois Vainker (1971)**, writes:

With great sadness we report that on 22 March 2018, Robin died peacefully, surrounded by his family at their home in Barnes at the age of 65. An outstanding sportsman throughout his life, he played cricket in the Sherborne's 1st XI at the age of 13 before switching his attention to tennis and moving to Millfield in his mid-teens, where he became Head Boy and Captain of

Tennis. Following a long and distinguished line of Millfield tennis-players, he came up to Downing in October 1972, winning a Blue in his first year and going on to captain CULTC in 1975. His academic performance bore the same distinctive traits as his sporting career:

high achievement with seemingly effortless grace, attaining upper seconds throughout, studying Economics in his first year before switching to Law and narrowly missing a first in his fourth and final LLB year in 1976. An active Hawk and Griffin, he was one of the sporting fraternity's most conspicuously popular figures, maintaining his friendship with many of his contemporaries throughout his life.

To those fortunate enough to know him well, Robin was an outstanding friend: vivacious, loyal, and a man of unfailingly excellent company. After qualifying as a solicitor in the late 70s with what was then Lovell, White & King, he worked for International Management Group, where his responsibilities included organizing the Pope's trip to the UK in 1982, (not least of his career achievements being his skillful handling of the media furore surrounding the controversial partnering of the Vatican with IMG), before a brief venture into City banking at Kleinwort Benson followed by nearly a decade working for the BBC's Legal Department in the 1990s. An inveterately independent spirit, in his mid 50s he successfully established his own law firm in Barnes, practicing as R J Frost, Solicitors and working in partnership with his Downing contemporary and longstanding friend François Vainker. Throughout his life Robin was a loyal Downing man and active alumnus, contributing generously to several Downing causes. In 1990 he married Megan O'Halloran, an Australian: it was a happy marriage blessed with two fine sons, Adam (b. 1994) and Robin Algernon (b. 1996).



**IAN GILBERT GIBSON MBE (1949)** died on 12 December 2017 aged 90. He read Veterinary Medicine. His daughter, Catherine, writes:

Ian was born on 8 February 1927 in Surrey and went to school first at The Hawthorns and then on to Cranleigh. On leaving school, he joined the Navy and spent three years minesweeping off Iceland and Greenland. A conversation with a fellow officer, who had done a short course at Cambridge, inspired him to apply to Downing to read veterinary medicine as one of the very first intake of ten students at the University's new Veterinary School. He was there from 1949 – 1955. At Downing, he played College rugby and captained the team as well as rowed in the rugby boat; he also sang in the choir at the dedication of the College chapel in 1953. Ian's years at Downing were tremendously important to him. He spoke about them with great affection and attended alumni events as often as he could (as this photo attests!).

While at Downing he met two women who were to determine the course of his life: the first, his future wife, Shirley, and the second, the novelist Elspeth Huxley, whose talk to the

Cambridge Colonial Society inspired him to go to work in Africa after a couple of years in general veterinary practice. Ian and Shirley married in 1958 and shortly afterwards left for Kenya where Ian worked first as a district and then a provincial veterinary officer in the Colonial Service and, after independence, for the Kenya Government. His last job in Kenya was as second in charge of a veterinary training institute in Nairobi set up by the UN's FAO. Both his children, a daughter and a son, were born in Kenya.

Ian's time in Kenya was happy, varied and fulfilling. The family reluctantly left in 1971 and returned to the UK. Ian resumed veterinary work and eventually settled in Dorchester, Dorset where he joined a large animal practice. He was also closely involved with the British Veterinary Association's Overseas Committee. Africa still beckoned and, on retiring from the practice at 60, he landed a job working for the Overseas Development Agency in Zimbabwe, working again in a training capacity near Harare for four years. His contribution to veterinary training overseas was recognised by the award of an MBE on his return to the UK in 1991.

When he finally retired, Ian was still very active and energetic: he was churchwarden of his village church for many years, an intrepid long-distance walker (from Iona to Lindisfarne and on a solo pilgrimage from Stratton to Canterbury), enthusiastic gardener and involved grandfather of four. The death of his wife in 2012 was a bitter blow from which he never really recovered. He developed late-onset Alzheimer's and needed live-in care until his death at his beloved home in Dorset before Christmas.

**BRIAN HEPPEL (1958)** died on 14 May 2017, aged 79. He read Geography.

He attended RGS Newcastle. Prior to arriving at Downing he spent two years in the RAF doing National Service. While at Downing he sang in the chapel choir and captained the 2nd XI football.

He gained a teaching qualification at Birmingham University and took up a post as Head of Geography at Bristol Cathedral School. In 1971 he joined the Castle School in Thornbury as Head of Humanities and was involved in preparing it for its first comprehensive intake. He organised many field trips, and, as well as more exotic destinations, over the years took more than 1,000 pupils to the Lake District. While at the Castle School, he was elected to a Schoolteacher Fellow Commonership at Jesus College, Cambridge and used the term for research which generated articles in journals and books and led to study tours in Japan and Taiwan.

In 1987 he took early retirement from the school and joined the Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate as its geography officer. He assisted with the development of A Levels, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa – Zambia, Namibia and Botswana. He finally retired in 1997, but continued as a consultant in matters geographical.

Away from work he sang in a number of choirs and was a very keen birdwatcher, for many years being a volunteer at the famous Slimbridge reserve. He and his wife Ann, who he met just after he left Downing, travelled widely.

**CHRISTOPHER STEWART HUTTON (1986)** died on 30 June 2017, aged 48. He read Land Economy.

**MICHAEL LOUIS HYDLEMAN (1950)** died on 7 June 2018, aged 88. He read English followed by Law.



**JOHN JAFFE (1944)** died on 7 November 2017, aged 91. He read Mechanical Sciences. His son, Paul, writes:

John was born on 11 March 1926 in Frankfurt am Main where he lived with his parents until March 1939 when they emigrated to London, not a moment too soon. John briefly attended St Faith's in Cambridge and the Leys (nominally and initially in Cambridge but evacuated to the Atholl Palace Hotel in Pitlochry, Scotland for the majority of his schooling). Despite arriving in England with very little English, John enjoyed St Faith's but found the Leys, which he joined just at the time that war was declared, less welcoming. In his first year at the Leys he won the school's chess competition. As it wasn't the done thing for a 3rd form student, let alone a German one, to win that prize, the school promptly abolished it until John left the Leys some 5 years later.

In 1944, John followed his cousin, Frederick Jaffe, to Downing College. Frederick had only been at Downing for two terms in 1939 before he was interned in the Isle of Man and then deported to Canada. John enjoyed his time at Cambridge where he studied hard enough to gain a double first as well as enjoying rugby. It was an interesting time with not only young undergraduates like John but also older undergraduates who were returning from the war.

After graduating from Cambridge, John lived in London where he worked for WS Atkins as an engineer and gained membership of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Institution of Structural Engineers and Institute of Metals. His first job with them was in South Wales where he helped in the rebuilding of the UK's steel industry.

In his spare time he enjoyed mountain climbing and playing rugby locally. He played rugby into his forties, refereed it in to his 50s and watched it enthusiastically and

knowledgeably for all of his life. John also enjoyed other athletic pursuits, including swimming.

In 1961 he married Jennifer Copeman, and they had two boys and two girls, who, although doing well as a lawyer, accountant, doctor and airline pilot, did not, to his disappointment, follow him to Cambridge University.

In 1966, John and family moved to Washington DC, where John took a job as a civil engineer in the Industry Department at the World Bank where he worked until his retirement nearly 20 years later. The World Bank enabled John to indulge his twin desires to do things correctly and to do the right thing. In these times before the growth of international capital markets, developing countries approached institutions like the World Bank for borrowing to fund major projects. John worked on projects in, and travelled extensively to, Brazil, Mexico, South Korea, Egypt, Japan, and Jordan amongst other countries. These projects involved John doing extensive engineering for steel mills in the quest of helping developing countries to improve their lot and that of their citizens. This also enabled him to travel extensively, in an era when travel was both less common and more exotic than it is today. He loved travel both for work and for pleasure.

Upon his early retirement from the World Bank, John was not ready to hang up his boots, and battled age discrimination to work for another decade until he was 68 years old.

John was a great believer in lifelong learning, which he approached with an open mind. Indeed, in 1995, John gained an MSc in Environmental Issues in Latin America from the Institute for Latin American Studies at the University of London. It was quite something not only to take a course that challenged aspects of the work he had done at the World Bank for so many years, but also to do so with intelligent engagement and enthusiasm. Aged 72, he was awarded a Foundation Certificate in Renaissance Art by the University of Surrey.

Latterly, he enjoyed walking, traveling, playing chess and bridge, reading and spending time with his grandchildren, particularly playing chess with them. He was always proud of his time at Downing College and celebrated his 90th birthday at the College with family and friends – an event he treasured.

*The Master, Fellows and Scholars wish to acknowledge the generosity of John Jaffe who was a member of Downing's 1749 Society and benefited the College in his Will.*

**PETER THOMAS KEEFE (1949)** died on 19 February 2018, aged 88. He read Natural Sciences followed by a PhD in Chemistry at the University of Leeds. He taught in several schools retiring from Bishop Henshaw School, Rochdale, as Deputy Headmaster.

As reported briefly in the 2017 Newsletter, **GEOFFREY SEDGWICK KEEPING (1944)** died on 30 August 2014, aged 90. His son, Chris, writes:

Geoffrey was born on 21 December 1923 in Exeter, Devon where he spent his formative years. The son of a school-master, he was one of six children. He was educated at Hele's Grammar School in Exeter where he developed a life-long interest in agriculture, spending much of his spare time at "Home Farm" situated on the outskirts of Exeter which belonged to the father of one of his closest school friends, helping out whenever time permitted. Indeed it was at "Home Farm" that he was to meet his future wife Lillian. Geoffrey completed his education by attending both Reading and latterly Cambridge University where he read Agricultural Science specialising in crop husbandry, obtaining his degree in August 1945.

In 1946 he applied for the post of Agricultural Officer in the Federated States of Malaya where he arrived in May of 1947. He was initially posted to the Agricultural Research Station at Serdang where he remained for three years. Rubber was still a mainstay of the Malayan economy and the research station was involved in experimentation to improve yields, as well as researching alternative crops to aid in the economy. One such plant was the Oil Palm which has now superseded rubber in importance for the Malayan economy.

Following his tenure at the Research Station Geoffrey was subsequently posted to a number of different States that made up the country as State Agricultural Officer, where he was responsible for overseeing, on behalf of the Government, all aspects of agriculture; these included Negri Sembilan, Pahang and Johore. In 1958 he was promoted to Deputy Director of Agriculture, a post that he occupied until 1960 when he retired from government service following the gaining of Malaya's independence in 1958.

During his service the country was engaged in a conflict with the 'Peoples' Communist Party of Malaya' who were intent on replacing the Colonial Government with that of a communist regime and which became known as 'The Emergency.' This was a difficult and dangerous time involving the murders of rubber planters, government officials and civilians, in order to spread alarm and despondency. Being a State Agricultural Officer posted to the remoter regions of the country was particularly dangerous, especially Pahang State to which he was posted in 1955 and which at the time was a hotbed of terrorist activity. In order to alleviate the danger Geoffrey, who was issued with a personal firearm, always made known to his staff, some of whom could well have been communist informers, that he was unarmed. Firearms and money were always prized by the terrorists.

It was whilst he was posted to Pahang that Geoffrey came closest to an encounter with terrorist activities. At that time if it was necessary to travel by road from one town to another it was always done in a convoy guarded by either the British military or police

in armoured cars. On the day in question Geoffrey, whose office was situated in Kuantan, the capital of Pahang, was required to attend a meeting in Kuala Lumpur the following day, a journey of some eight hours duration. Soon after setting off he realised that he had forgotten to take an important document with him and returned to his office to collect it where he had to wait before another convoy was formed. Some four hours into the journey his original convoy was ambushed by terrorists and in the ensuing gun battle a number of casualties were incurred. Geoffrey always wondered if he might have been one of them and concluded that fate smiled kindly on him that day.

Geoffrey was always happiest when he was out and about in the field and his two years as Deputy Director of Agriculture in Kuala Lumpur dealing with administrative paper work he found frustrating. In 1960 he took up the offer of retirement and returned to England to pursue his boyhood dream of farming. He settled near Exeter where he purchased a farm and over the next thirty years built up a pedigree herd of Friesian dairy cattle. His fondness for Malaya never diminished and he returned to the country several times. He remained fluent in the Malayan language until his death. His wife Lillian predeceased him, as did his youngest son.

**ALAN KELK (1951)** died on 17 June 2017, aged 85. He read English followed by a PGCE. He retired in 1991 as Head of English at Cheadle Hume School.

**ROBERT HODGSON KILLINGBECK (1956)** died on 4 February 2018, aged 80. He read Natural Sciences. He spent 33 years as HM Principle Inspector of Prisons followed by six years in industry.

**CLIVE KING (1941)** died on 10 July 2018, aged 94. He read English. Born in Richmond in Surrey in 1924, after Downing he studied at the School of Oriental and African studies in London. He travelled the world as a Royal Naval Reserve and as a language teacher for the British Council. He was a very successful author of children's books. Best known is *Stig of the Dump* which has never been out of print and has sold more than two million copies since it was published in 1963. It has been adapted for television three times, in 1981, 2002 and 2013.

Other books included *Hamid of Aleppo So*, *The Twenty-Two Letters*, *The Town that Went South* and *Snakes and Snakes*. He also wrote plays for children, including *Poles Apart*, *Get the Message* and *The Butcher of Rye*. He is survived by his widow Penny and three children.



**ADRIAN GUY BURTON LARBY (1961)** died on 20 August 2017, aged 75. He read Law. **Robert Chaston (1961)** writes:

Adrian was born in Nairobi on 7 February 1942. He was the youngest of three Larby brothers, Julian being the eldest and Miles the middle.

Adrian and I first met on King's Cross railway station on our way up to Cambridge for admission interviews at Downing. I suppose this must have been some time in 1960. Maybe something about the ties and tweed jackets (and possibly, or even probably, cavalry twills), led to the polite enquiry "Are you by any chance going up to Cambridge?". In any event, one of us suggested we "took tea" on the train. In those happy but smelly days of steam "tea" involved linen tablecloths, cups and saucers and a pot and of course the sandwiches, scones and cakes. I learnt that Adrian's eldest brother Julian also attended Downing College and, although Julian swept Adrian away once we reached Cambridge, by that curious chemistry, seen at its most obvious in children, a real and lasting friendship had already been born.

We came up in October 1961 and were both reading Law, as were Roger Duncan and John Maples and as well as linguist John Townley – we were all to become firm and enduring friends.

Known as 'Drain' to those that knew him well, Adrian was a well-liked gregarious character, loyal friend and an avid sportsman. He was awarded his LLB degree thanks largely to the tutoring of John Hopkins, whom we both regarded, together with his wife, Cherry, as friends. In sport Drain was a fast rugby winger and keen hockey player and was part of the Downing hockey team which won Cuppers in 1961/2.

Cambridge is so full of memories talk, work, sport and of course socialising. In our final term we were "social" rather than performing members of the Footlights. There was a "Smoker" involving a song and dance routine with boaters, canes and striped blazers. Eric Idle was one of the performers. The only part of the performance Drain and I could recall when speaking shortly before his death was part of the chorus which went as follows:

Cheer-Ho Cambridge,  
Streets all paved with gold.  
Cheer-Ho Cambridge,  
Now we're growing old.

Yes we are, but it was still striking a chord with Drain.

After Cambridge, Drain went to Margate to be articled to a firm of solicitors run by one of his father's old Cambridge friends. Drain then came to live with me in South Wales where we shared a cottage. There he met Liz Cory whom he was to marry and remain with for 47 years, very happily, having two children: Rebecca, my goddaughter,

and Charlie and five grandchildren. Adrian was a great family man and having settled in Cowbridge in South Wales he went on to start and run his own successful legal practice which he, sometime later, merged with one of the largest practices in Wales.

We have maintained the connection with Downing and over the years we instigated regular reunion dinners/weekends with the Downing friends, already mentioned, and our respective families. Such was the bond formed over many happy years in Cambridge.

Only a few months before his own death, his eldest brother, Julian, was to die in Nairobi. Julian's obituary also appears in this issue.

Drain is hugely missed by his wife, children and grandchildren and many, many dear friends.



**CHARLES JULIAN BURTON LARBY (1957)** died on 20 June 2017, aged 79. He read Law. His widow, Jenny, writes:

Julian was born in Mombasa on 6 August 1937 and was taken home to Malindi, a town for which he always retained a remarkable affection. When the Second World War broke out the family moved to Machakos in Kenya where his father, Norman, who had also been to Cambridge, was appointed the Headmaster of the Government African School.

After attending St Andrew's School, Turi, Kenton and Ashfold in Kent, Julian went to Rugby School. Between school and university he returned to Kenya where he served as an Acting District Officer based in Kisumu. There, he presided over Magistrates' Courts of the Third Class and when the 1957 elections were held he was put in charge of a polling station in Bondo. He then went to Downing College where he rowed for the College with some success, including participating at the Henley Royal Regatta. After Cambridge he went to London where he became a barrister of the Middle Temple. He joined the Commonwealth Relations Office and was there for the better part of three years. During this time he married Linda Macauley who bore him two lovely daughters, Tamsin and Kirstin.

He returned to Kenya at the end of 1964, but the marriage did not last and Linda returned to the UK with the girls. Julian had, by this time joined Kaplan & Stratton where he remained for four decades. He had a number of entrepreneurial interests the main one of which was the family-owned Driftwood Club in Malindi. He was also a director of the Flying Doctor Service with Dr Michael Wood. He served on the Committee of Gertrude's Garden and was Secretary of the Oxford and Cambridge.

Socially, his interests were vast. He joined Round Table No. 1 and participated in the organisation's Ring Us Up programmes aired by the Voice of Kenya. He took part in the record breaking 24 hour pram push from Nairobi some 280 km down the Mombasa

Road and this effort earned a place in the Guinness Book of Records as well as raising a considerable sum of money for charities. He joined Nondies in 1965 and played hockey for many years for the Nairobi Club Wednesday side which he captained. He became the Secretary to the Rugby Football Union of East Africa and the Kenya Rugby Football Union where he actively participated in the initial promotion of the extremely successful Safari Sevens Tournament.

He died on 20 June peacefully at home surrounded by his wife, Jenny, whom he married in 1972 and their two children, Justin and Kerin.

**ARTHUR GREENWOOD LOMAX (1952)** died on 15 May 2017, aged 86. He read Natural Sciences. His brother, Roger, writes:

Arthur died at home in Tisbury, Wiltshire. He was educated at King's School, Chester, then Bolton School before National Service in the Army Education Corps. He then went up to Downing College to read Natural Sciences (Chemistry). On graduation, he worked in the paint industry and then joined the petrochemical division of Esso.

He married Barbara, a nurse, and they lived in Haywards Heath and Horsham. They had four children, John, David, Kate and Penny and nine grandchildren. The family moved with Esso to Brussels where they stayed for six years. On returning to England they lived in Fawley until Arthur retired in 1985 to Tisbury.

He was a keen rock climber in his younger days and then a yachtsman, owning a Westerly Berwick, cruising the south coast and Brittany. He became involved in voluntary work in the village, especially the library when under threat and then gardening, bridge and walking their dogs until limited by ill health. He is survived by his wife and family.

**DAVID KEITH MARTIN (1961)** died in July 2017, aged 74. He read Law.



**CHRISTOPHER JOHN MASON (1967)** died on 20 February 2016, aged 67. He read Mechanical Sciences followed by Economics. His sister, Viv, writes:

Chris was born in central Brighton in 1948 in a tall, old, house in a terrace about 100 yards from the seafront. His sister, Viv, was a

year older and their mum ran a B&B while their dad was still in the Army, but based locally. During his first five years, most days included time on the beach, building sandcastles and sailing toy boats that his dad made. He started performing very early, often singing to guests and much appreciated because many of them were theatre people, either in rep in the theatre at the end of the West Pier or the nearby Theatre Royal.

The family moved (together with grandparents and an aunt and uncle) to a 'nicer' area of Brighton when he was just about to start school. He was happy to go there, but thought that he'd done it after the first day. He enjoyed school, but had lots of projects at home and sometimes thought that playtime was time to go home, so his mum was surprised when he turned up early at home from time to time. He was a bit dangerous on his tricycle and once accidentally (he said) cycled down a hill and lost control, stopping in the side of a passing bus, where he left a huge dent, but emerged unscathed. He joined the local Cub Pack and the person who ran the pack meets Viv occasionally and still asks after him. He liked playing the recorder and making a lot of noise banging drums.

In 1959, when Chris was ten, the family had a great adventure and sailed for Australia as £10 POMs, leaving the aunt and uncle at home. The journey out took about six weeks, sailing on the Orontes of the Orient Line. The Bay of Biscay was as rough as it could be and Chris loved it. Then the Mediterranean and watching the volcano Stromboli erupting. The Suez Canal was exciting and he loved the Egyptian bum boats with traders swarming up to the ship's decks carrying all their wares and the performance of the Gulli Gulli man, a magician in flowing robes. Then India for a few days and Ceylon before docking at Fremantle near Perth in Australia. The family moved to a house in Adelaide, with a back garden full of mature orange, lemon and tangerine trees. School was huts up on stilts over dusty ground and instead of having games there was marching in formations.

The Mason family returned to Brighton after a year or so, enjoying the journey again for another six weeks. The neighbours in Adelaide had travelled out on the same ship and although they stayed a year longer they also came back and stayed with the Masons until they also settled in Brighton, where the boys went to the same school as Chris, Varndean Grammar School. Chris found school a bit boring and was rather selective about what he worked on. He often hosted a bridge group at home and regularly went camping with the Scouts, where he took a leading role singing at camp fires.

Some time in the Army Cadets introduced him to ways of making explosions, which he enjoyed a lot. That perhaps influenced his choice of study when he gained a place at Cambridge in Downing College and studied Engineering. He wasn't very impressed with the course and finished his degree too early, having to stay for another year to graduate. So he turned to electrical engineering at an interesting time, in the early days of computers. He tried various jobs for fairly short periods – a short spell of teaching in a private school made him rule that out as an option, a longer period building roads and bridges was more

interesting, but he rather often described how the two sides didn't quite meet and a yard or so of space had to be filled! He also spent some time doing tests to see if houses might be floated on a boggy area of Weymouth, but as they kept sinking that didn't work either.

The direction that worked well for him emerged as more larger organisations began to install mainframe computers. He soon became skilled in programming them and found that he could take contracts to carry out specific pieces of work. This enabled him to live in different places and to enjoy exploring the world as he built up his career. He worked in Kenya early on and then in Tehran (where he had to make a quick escape when the Ayatollah took over from the Shah, as Chris had been working for the government). He had an emergency plan, with a bucket of petrol to share to get to the mountains, where he had maps of routes to Turkey. He said that his beard was a distinct advantage, helping him to fit in in Tehran.

He had been climbing regularly by then and enjoyed a period in Scotland, where he skied and climbed as well as taking many trips abroad. There was a year or two in New York where he lived on Staten Island and took the ferry to work in Manhattan every day. His dad and mum visited him there – mum's first time flying! He spent a year or so in Germany too, where Viv and Paul visited him and sat on his balcony watching deer come out of the forest to eat the cabbages in the nearby fields. He moved from there to Bournemouth to work for Abbey Life and was delighted to find his flat, where he always loved the view over the bay towards Old Harry Rocks. He continued his climbing and skiing, but by now had added sailing to his activities and sailed regularly with some friends before he bought their yacht and often sailed alone.

He had joined up with Bourne River Morris and Dorset Buttons and loved his life in Bournemouth with all the friends he made and the music he was part of. This was the first time he really settled and wanted to continue living in this community, going out every evening and most weekends to one or another event. Through all of this he came home every single Christmas of his life, although Viv and Paul often had to rush to airports to meet him, once on Christmas Day. At first this was just the Mason family, then Paul married Viv and thankfully all the parents got on with each other. A tradition developed of everyone trooping down to the beach on Christmas Day in the morning, to drink champagne and offer a toast to Neptune and to think of family and friends who had settled in faraway places. For twenty years or so the whole bigger family went on holiday together, mostly camping in France and Chris joined them from whichever country he was working in at the time, sometimes hiking down from the Pyrenees with his ice axe tied to the pack on his back. Recently the family has dwindled as first Chris's dad and then his mum died, then a few years later Paul's parents died and the last three Christmases have been just Chris, Viv and Paul.

Chris could never leave Bournemouth until he had finished the Mummings plays and completed their fund raising. He loved waving his sword around as a Turkish knight (see photographs above) and stomping around shouting – but he did take all the traditions

very seriously and made a huge collection of folk songs. He was always delighted to be asked to play or sing with groups or for events and spent a lot of time learning to play his concertinas as well as he could. He also started composing music and developing his own songs, so he would have been very pleased to think that his friends would want to perform his songs and that he had made a lasting contribution to the continuation of the old songs and traditions – not to mention ensuring that spring comes again each year!



**JOHN PATRICK MAURICE (1953)** died on 10 October 2017, aged 84. He read History.

His daughter, Louise Maurice, and Pads Dolphin write:

John Patrick Maurice was born on 13 July 1933 to Pat and Daphne Maurice, in Gosport, where Pat was stationed with the Navy. John led a fascinating and adventurous life. During the War, when he was 6 years old, he and his sister, Sally, travelled to India to meet his parents who were now stationed there. He was sent back to England three years later, undertaking a six-week voyage around the coast of Africa as the Mediterranean was now closed by war. He went to St Andrew's school in Berkshire, and then Radley, where he later taught. He then studied history at Downing, which he enjoyed immensely. Here he also played his flute in many concerts, often with his great friend Alan Lumsden.

After graduating in 1956, just before the start of the hippy era, John acquired a secondhand London taxi, together with some of his Cambridge friends. They painted it with bright flowers, before setting out to explore the UK. Then in 1957 he purchased a 250cc BSA motorcycle and, with his guitar, set off across Europe – destination Malta, where his sister Sally with husband Peter Dolphin, were now stationed with the Navy. His adventurous life continued. The following year, in 1958 he undertook a month long trip to Russia with his old friend Alan Lumsden, as a sales rep for Alan's company, Musica Rara, with the aim of acquiring hard-to-come-by musical scores by Russian composers. In 1959 John got a job for five months on a yacht, doing geophysical oil surveys from Mombasa to the Persian Gulf. When they arrived in the Shatt Al Arab waterway which separates southern Iraq and Iran and tried to jump the queue of boats waiting to go in because they were behind schedule, they were boarded by armed Iranian guards who arrested them and held the boat for three days.

John made a second visit to Malta in 1960 and it was around this time that he stopped in Naples and first met the love of his life, Isa Rodoero. In 1961 John went to Somalia where he taught at a secondary school in Sheikh for the British Council for two years,

and from reading his correspondence it is clear that those years were a very special time for John. He simply loved Somalia. He also got time off for leave, travelling across Africa in a landrover, where he encountered local tribesmen who were generally curious and friendly, although one tribe threw spears at the landrover as they made a hasty retreat. He also returned by ship, stopping in Naples to visit Isa again. After Somalia, John settled with Isa in Rome for a while and on 29 August 1964 they married.

John went back to teaching for the British Council for a time in Qatar and then Saudi Arabia, and then in 1970 he and Isa finally settled down in London where John's first novel *The Divider* was published in 1971. During the 1960s and early 1970s he also wrote a further five novels that remain unpublished. To help pay the bills, John worked as a fund raiser drafting appeal brochures for clients, including Harold MacMillan.

In 1973 John went back to teaching and taught for three months at a school in Lambeth before he was offered a job by the City of London School where he taught English and Rowing for the next 20 years. John loved teaching in a multicultural London school, and was an inspiration to pupils. During that time, John was to experience both joy when in 1975 their daughter Louise was born, but also a desperate tragedy, as John watched his beautiful wife Isa deteriorate both mentally and physically, until her death three years later.

In 1993 John took early retirement and lived with his father Pat in Marlborough on the banks of the river Kennet and although Pat died 11 months later, John calculated that it was the longest uninterrupted period that he had lived with his father in his entire life. John also enjoyed hill walking in his retirement, as he had done all his life, and took up a new hobby – golf.

In retirement, John began corresponding with many of his friends from the past with whom he had mostly had no contact for 20 years and he also continued his diary writing. His letters and personal diaries provide a unique record of an adventurous life that spanned 84 years of global, social and personal change. He also started to write books again, which culminated in the year 2000 with the publication of his second novel, *Jabberwocky Day*, a clever and complex mystery story. This was soon followed by a volume of short stories *Some Marlborough Inventions and Stories from a Foreign Country*. One story, the *Athenians*, is rich in meaning and depth concerning the purpose of life. It describes the search for inner peace, which John describes as the reconciliation of the real and the ideal. He found that peace himself and lived a remarkably content life during his time at the City of London school and his 24 year retirement. Even as he suffered in the last four years with cancer and dementia his strong spirit, courage, intelligence, extraordinary reconciliation with the end of life, and remarkable ability to do cryptic crosswords was inspirational to us.



Gary and his wife Louise

**GARY CAMERON MCLEAN (1981)** died on 4 June 2018, aged 55. He read Law. **Mark Stoneham (1981)** writes:

Gary came to Downing in 1981 from Strathallan School in Perth, Scotland to study Law having grown up in the West Indies and Canada. He had spent a year working in France after leaving school and described his Gallic language abilities on his CV as 'fluent/fair'. None of us could remember much in the way of evidence behind that claim. A member of the Patricians, the Griffins and The Exiles, Gary was hugely popular not only within his own year group, but also within all the year groups he overlapped with. He had a wide group of friends, played college tennis and hockey and was a good golfer.

Gary wasn't good at everything. **Penny Furniss (1981)** writes: "Gary was a terrible cook. It was good to find a gap in his competencies. His signature dish was a can of Campbell's condensed chicken soup, diluted by a full glass of rough Fino sherry, with two cashew nuts floating, semi-submerged, on the top. This we bequeath to the Downing Kitchens. Soup *Gary McLean*. Like Omelette *Arnold Bennett*, only with less chance of widespread adoption."

Despite this paucity of culinary skills, Gary was always an outstanding host, generous to a fault. Dinner parties with Gary and Louise, his wife, were always popular and great fun.

**David Bickerton (1983)** recently emailed me with a great description of Gary as being 'effortlessly successful' in the way he studied, which summarises beautifully his laid-back, yet efficient, approach to learning.

After leaving Downing, Gary embarked on a highly-successful career with Allen & Overy in 1986. Following a period in Hong Kong, he became a Partner in 1996, specialising in Mergers and Acquisitions, Asset Financing and outsourcing transactions in the financial sector. He was appointed head of the Asia Pacific Corporate practice in Hong Kong from 2010 until his retirement in 2016.

Richard Cranfield, Chairman of the firm's Corporate practice, emailed this: "Gary was a highly respected and valued colleague and friend. Driven to achieve the best outcome for his clients, he also demonstrated in spades the energy and commitment to drive the Corporate practice forward globally – demonstrated by his stints in London, Hong Kong and Amsterdam. Gary was always determined and would not give up on any project. Beyond his practice, he stood out for his contribution to all aspects of A&O life, including community investment. He was a perfectionist in all that he did – but will also be remembered for his great sense of humour. I always looked forward to



Gary with Mark Stoneham (1981)  
and Mark Rushton (1981)

catching up with Gary; the conversation would be informative and fun. We are all devastated for him and his family that his retirement was so short.”

**Tom Brown (1983)**, another A&O Partner who worked with Gary in Hong Kong, writes: “Gary arrived at a time of huge upheaval for the Hong Kong office and it is a testament to his leadership skills that the corporate practice, which he headed, is now roaring ahead. Despite having to make very tough decisions to put the practice on track to recovery, Gary always put the interests of his people first and was loved and respected by everyone as an extremely able, yet kind, leader.”

Gary had met his wife Louise, as a child when they both lived in the Bahamas. They married in 1992 and have three wonderful children – Tom, a PhD student in microbiology at UEA; Lily, a graduate-entry medical student at King’s College University Hospital and Oscar, currently taking A-levels at Canford School (where all three children, Louise and her father studied). Tom, Lily and Oscar have all followed in their father’s footsteps in that they are intelligent and smart, dedicated and diligent in their studies, kind and tolerant to others whilst also enjoying life to the full.

Gary was diagnosed with stage 4 oesophageal cancer in February 2017 despite having had little in the way of symptoms. The prognosis was not good from the outset. He entered a clinical immunotherapy trial which, for many months regressed his disease and gave him and everyone else a tiny hope of a cure. Unfortunately, he developed complications of the treatment and had to stop the trial. However, for 12 months, he had a good quality of life, continuing to socialise, play golf and tennis and in particular spend quality time with each of his three children.

Tragically, the disease took increasing hold of him and he developed complications and died in King’s College Hospital surrounded by his family. Quite a few of us old College friends were privileged to be able to visit him in the days leading up to his death. He was a great man. All who knew him are deeply saddened by his tragic, untimely death, but buoyed by the many memories of good times and the joy we each derived from this very special friend.

**JOHN STUART MILLER (1947)** died on 23 December 2015, aged 86. He read Natural Sciences.



**IAN SYDNEY MITCHELSON CBE (1956)** died on 18 June 2017, aged 80. He read Geography and then took a PGCE. His daughter, Nancy, writes:

Ian Mitchelson was born on 10 December 1936 and throughout his life took great pleasure in the fact that by 10am Edward VIII had abdicated and the monarchy was in crisis. He was brought up in Torrisholme, Morecambe with his mother Bessie and father, Sidney.

Ian went first to Euston Road Primary School in Morecambe and then to Morecambe Grammar School. He excelled academically and won an exhibition to read Geography at Downing. He went up in September 1956. Throughout this time, Ian cycled the length and breadth of the Lake District. Whilst at University he worked as a postman, a gardener and as a conductor for Ribble buses. These jobs provided him not only with the necessary funds, but also with a host of stories to dine out on in later life.

He graduated from Cambridge University with an MA in Geography and trained as a teacher. His first post was at Plympton Grammar School and he then moved to Wolverhampton Grammar School. It was at this time in 1962 that he met Beth at a dance on Morecambe Pier. Somehow he persuaded her to dance – my father would be the first to say that dancing was not his forte. Sensibly he decided to continue their courtship by walking my mother over the peaks of the Lake District. The strategy paid off and they were married in April 1964.

In 1966, Ian made the move which was to set him on his successful and rewarding career path in education administration and joined Worcestershire County Council. After happy years in Bridgnorth and then Malvern, the family moved to North Yorkshire in the winter of 1969.

After North Yorkshire Ian and Beth moved to Rheindahlen in Germany, as Ian was appointed Chief Executive of the Service Children's Schools Agency. They stayed for 6 years. Ian supported the music service both in North Yorkshire and in MOD schools. One of his achievements was to set up Music Centres for forces schools and these still exist in Germany and in Cyprus. Learning an instrument and playing in ensembles has made a huge difference to many service pupils' lives. When he retired, the Rheindahlen Music Centre came to his office and Ian joined them in a concert, playing the triangle.

Ian was awarded the CBE in 1997 for services to education. Throughout his career he firmly believed in a first class education for all. He believed that education offered life chances; it could be a game-changer, as it was indeed for him. He believed that an efficient and aspirational education service was a right and not a privilege for the children and families he served.

In his retirement, Ian lent his administrative talents to Rotary and then to the Cambridge Society. It was perhaps now as much as at any time that dad reaped the benefits of his hard work in his youth. The activities of the Cambridge Society allowed him to continue to exercise his administrative skills and also brought many interesting and enjoyable social events.

He is survived by his wife Beth, their three children and five grandchildren.

**CYRIL HUBERT NEMETH MBE (1946)** died 10 April 2018, aged 90. He read Natural Sciences. Dr Nemeth MBE, JP, MA, MRCS, LRCP, MRCP, was a doctor who was also a member of Westminster City Council from 1986 to 2014. He served as Lord Mayor in 1992-1993.



**VICTORIA NOELLE NIGHTINGALE (née CRIPPS) (1982)** died on 16 June 2018, aged 55. She read Modern and Medieval Languages. **Bev Purvis (née Myers) (1982)** writes:

Victoria always said she had two really happy places in her life – one was Downing, the other was Cornwall where she lived for eighteen wonderful years. But wherever she was, Victoria made it a happy place with her smile and love for just about everyone she met.

Victoria was born in Madrid, but grew up in Poole and London as part of a large, loving family with her siblings Rebecca, Anthony, Charlotte and Peter. She went to St Paul's School in London before studying Modern Languages at Downing. Her time at Cambridge was characterised by her willingness to seize opportunities. She coxed for Downing, winning her rudder. She was the first woman to appear for the College on University Challenge, sang in the chapel choir and jointly directed a memorable production of *Salad Days*. Her failing costume at her toga party has never been forgotten.

Victoria started her publishing career at Lloyds of London, she assisted Delia Smith with her cookery books and worked at the innovative publishing house Forward. She wrote a range of successful children's books and was proud to be the editor of a national magazine for plus-sized women.



After her marriage to Denis Nightingale, she moved to Cornwall and re-trained as a primary school teacher. She became a loved and valued teacher spending 13 years at Stithians School. Her enduring enthusiasm for life was poured into the long hours in the classroom which

shook with laughter as the youngsters achieved outstanding results year after year. The whole school closed for her funeral where the children's touching and amusing portraits of Victoria bedecked the joyful wake.

In 2003 Victoria and Denis adopted Aidan and Connor. She was a marvellous mother, giving them a loving family home and every opportunity to flourish. She heard just before she died that Aidan had been awarded a prestigious Olivier scholarship to help progress his training in musical theatre. That made her very happy and proud.

Victoria was known for her world class memory and even became the subject of research. She was a polymath being a gifted cook, seamstress, singer, sailor and bridge player. Her friends and family remember her for a truly gentle manner that concealed remarkable strength and drive. She was loyal to friends and devoted to family. She loved reading and her adopted home of Cornwall.

Victoria had a chronic genetic gastric disorder and she endured a number of major operations before being diagnosed with ovarian cancer two years ago. She faced her treatments with extraordinary and humbling stoicism and good humour

Victoria died in St Julia's Hospice, Hayle. She is survived by her husband Denis, sons Connor and Aidan, grandson Joshua and stepson Ben.



**GEOFFREY FRANCIS NORRIS MBE (1953)** died on 20 February, 2018, aged 83. He read Natural Sciences followed by an MB, BChir. His son, Paul, writes:

Geoff was born on 20 October 1934 in Cardiff to Frank and Hilda Norris. His early days were in Cardiff and then Porthcawl, South Wales. His schooling was at Bishop Llandaff School, Cardiff and then at Mill Hill, London prior to studying Medicine at Downing College and Westminster Hospital Medical School, qualifying in 1959. He married Margaret Davis in 1960. They

adopted two children, a daughter Elizabeth and son, Paul. Prior to his career in General Practice, Geoff was house physician at St Margaret's Hospital, Epping.

In 1962 he began his career in Primary Care, which included some time as locum to Dr Ted Marien, a founder member of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP). In 1963, Geoff and four other doctors established the Handsworth Avenue Health Centre in Highams Park, East London, where he was a partner until 1997. During this time, Geoff also had many other roles in healthcare including Police Surgeon (1968-1971), Trainer to 25 registrars (1972-1997), Member of Accident/Major Incidents Unit (1975-1988), Clinical Assistant in a variety of disciplines at various hospitals (1964-1980) including working with Sir Richard Bayliss (Physician to HM the Queen), part-time Senior Lecturer in General Practice at Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine (1978-1982) and GP Tutor at Whipps Cross (1982-1989).

In 1997, he was awarded an MBE for "Services to Medicine".

After leaving Handsworth Avenue Health Centre in 1997, Geoff continued in General Practice at a number of East London GP practices in a part-time capacity. His last surgery was on 29 January 2014, marking 51 years in General Practice. Geoff also carried out many other roles in medicine. He was an appraiser of GPs for a number of Primary Care Trusts, a facilitator for the Refugee Council CPD Group for Refugee Doctors and a mentor/coach for the London Deanery, completing the Certificate of ILM in Coaching in 2011. He was Provost of the North East London Faculty of the RCGP from 2008 to 2011. In November 2017, Geoff was the first recipient of North East London Faculty RCGP "Geoffrey Norris Award for Relationship Based Care".

Geoff's Christian faith was central to his life. He was a committed member of Highams Park Baptist Church, serving on the church's leadership for many years. In 2011, he was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. This was successfully treated, but the lasting effects would eventually contribute to his death. He leaves a wife, two children, five grandchildren and one great-grandson.

As reported briefly in the 2017 Newsletter **JAMES BROOK NURTON (1944)** died on 6 June, 2017, aged 90. His daughter, Elizabeth, writes:

Jim passed away peacefully in Howick, KZN, South Africa after leading a full, happy and adventurous life.

In addition to his Masters from Cambridge, he was elected to be a Chartered Civil Engineer and Fellow of the Civil Engineers UK, Council Member and Fellow of the Institute of Engineers of Zimbabwe and a Professional Engineer of South Africa. He was also elected as a Melvin Jones Fellow of the Lions International for Services to the Community.

The major part of his working life was for Water Affairs in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). Together

with a technician and small support crew he did the initial surveys of the Zambesi River and Valley for the placement of the Kariba Dam. They established and subsequently built the 'Elephant Road' to Kariba by following the elephant trails to the area as well as the dam.

During Jim's career he was the leading engineer on building dams and establishing and maintaining water supplies which brought relief and support to so many throughout Zimbabwe and latterly South Africa. He was an inspiring mentor and supporter to young people, particularly in making career choices.

Always busy and prepared to lead with quiet council and humour, retirement saw him extensively involved in Lions International and the Howick and District Council for the Care of the Aged. His favourite project was a voluntary group repairing and maintaining wheelchairs and mobility aids for local charitable organisations.

He is survived by his wife Pat, daughters Liz and Jane, Mike (Liz's husband) and three granddaughters and their families.



**HYLTON CHRISTIAN OBERST (1951)** died on 11 May 2018, aged 86. He read English. His son, Simon, writes:

Hylton Oberst came up to Downing from Harrow County School after completing his National Service. His time at Cambridge, studying under F R Leavis, made a huge impression on him and he retained his association with Downing right up until the end of his life. After graduation he joined the management training course of J Sainsbury and quickly rose through the ranks to become a senior meat buyer for the company. He relished his work with meat traders across the world, using his exceptional memory, attention to detail and warmth of personal contact. Those were the days, he used to say, when in trade your word really was your bond.

After moving to British Home Stores as senior meat and provisions buyer, Chris, as he was known in the trade, took a director role in Scot Bowyer, dividing his time between the offices at Trowbridge and Bletchley. During these years the family remembers (and benefited from) his ritual breakfast tasting of sausages and bacon. His knowledge of the meat trade was encyclopaedic and for this reason he was appointed in 1979 as Director General of the Meat and Livestock Commission, a quango which required in its DG political acumen in reconciling the bureaucracy of the Common Agricultural Policy with the needs of British farmers (he remained a Eurosceptic throughout his life).

Taking early retirement at the age of 63, in some ways Chris Oberst's greatest impact was yet to come. This was in becoming President of the International Meat Secretariat (IMS), an important trade association uniting bodies around the world and holding

large World Meat Congresses. Chris's attention to organisational and financial control established the body on a sound and sustainable foundation. He made strong friendships through the IMS and revelled in the international contacts.

Hylton Oberst had a wide spread of interests outside work, ranging from hunting and carnation growing (at which he won several county prizes) to supporting rowing (Downing and at Henley) and opera. He was a keen liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Butchers and in his last years made a big contribution as a trustee of the Meat and Livestock Commission Pension Scheme. He was a lifelong member of the Conservative Party and when most people would be relaxing in retirement was a very active President of his local Conservative Association of Chesham and Amersham. He relished all kinds of political discourse. Downing and Cambridge, he said, taught him how to think and to question everything. Woe betide you if you tackled him with insufficient evidence and logic. For him, the education that a university such as Cambridge provides was one of the most valuable things this world affords.

He leaves his wife Hazel, his lifelong support, three sons and six grandchildren.



**RACHEL PENNY (née PEARCE) (1986)** died on 18 December 2017, aged 51. She read Geography. Her husband, **Patrick Penny (1984)**, writes:

Rachel died in Farleigh Hospice, Chelmsford from a brain tumour. She was born in Norwich, the eldest of three daughters, and was brought up in Bromley. She went to Ravensbourne School before transferring to Sevenoaks School for the 6th Form. Her skills were quickly recognised and she became Vice Captain, represented the School in sailing and participated

fully in the musical culture of the school.

On arriving at Downing to read Geography, Rachel threw herself into College life. She joined the Boat Club immediately and rowed every term she was up, winning her oars in the 1st May Boat for three years in succession. She also won a 1<sup>st</sup> Lent Boat blade, was one of the "spare pair" for the University crews in 1988, before rowing in the 1989 Blondie boat. The 1989 May Boat dominated the Cam, and won the Cambridge Regatta easily, beating the best college and town crews in the process. She was a diligent Captain of Lower Boats in her last year.

Rachel also sang in the Chapel Choir for her entire time at College, often putting on her undergraduate gown over her rowing kit for evensong as she dashed from boathouse to Chapel. Her love of the English choral tradition permeated her life and sprang from the Choir's constantly changing repertoire. The Chapel Choir tour to Rome in her last year,



including a concert at the British Ambassador's residence, was one of her happiest times. The friendships she made at Downing, particularly from rowing and music sustained her to the last. On graduation she was awarded a Pilley Scholarship for her contribution to College life.

Rachel always had a passion for the natural environment and, inspired by Bill Adams, she gained a MSc in Conservation from UCL. Her thesis on visitor management at Blakeney Point in North Norfolk led to a job as Project Officer at Norfolk Coast Project and her skills at meeting and influencing partners for a greener agenda, but with commercial benefits, became clear. The continued existence of the Coasthopper bus service along the North Norfolk Coast, as well as the siting of the National Cycling Network's first route are testaments to her work in the 1990s.

She later moved through Countryside Commission, via Countryside Agency, to Natural England, where she fulfilled several roles, from supporting the projects running the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Eastern Region, to millennium greens, planning issues and the health benefits of the green spaces, which suited her passion for encouraging people to enjoy the natural environment.

She rowed for Norwich Rowing Club for several years after leaving Downing and came back to coach at College. She also sang with a number of choirs, including the Waltham Singers for the last 17 years of her life. She was a great supporter of Mencap and Marie Curie, sitting on the local fundraising committee.

Rachel collapsed the day after the family's traditional picnic at Henley for old DCBC friends in 2015. Within a month she had been diagnosed with a brain tumour. Despite being given just a year to live, Rachel was determined to live life to the full, making frequent trips to Cornwall, Lundy, London and around the East Anglian Coast. She managed to do everything on her terms for a further two years and to the very end and passed in the wonderful care of Farleigh Hospice in Chelmsford.

She is survived by Paddy, whom she met at Downing, and their two sons, Nick and Joe.

A birdhide is being built in Rachel's memory in the Suffolk Coast. To donate please go to [mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/rachelpennybirdhide](http://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/rachelpennybirdhide)

*The Master, Fellows and Scholars wish to acknowledge the generosity of Rachel Penny who was a member of Downing's 1749 Society and benefited the College in her Will.*

**JOHN LEONARD PENWILL (1967)** died on 2 April 2018, aged 73. He studied for a PhD in Classics and had worked at La Trobe University, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia.

**PETER RONALD PHILIPS (1964)** died on 16 February 2018, aged 73. He read English.

**ALAN JOHN PRICE (1956)** died on 8 January 2018, aged 82. He read History. He had been a transport officer for Maidstone Council since 1974.



Macao 1984

**MICHAEL TERENCE RANK (1968)** died on 20 May 2017, aged 67. He read Oriental Studies. His wife, Ester, wrote the following for *The Guardian* which we are reproducing with their kind permission:

My husband Michael Rank, who has died of cancer aged 67, was a journalist, translator and China specialist.

He arrived in Beijing as Reuters correspondent in 1980, in time to cover the trial of the Gang of Four and left in 1984 after a time of incredible change. He went on press trips to Tibet and Hainan when both were closed to foreigners. After China, Michael was posted to Zambia and Kenya, where he covered civil wars in Angola and Uganda and the Ethiopian famine. With the ANC in exile in Zambia he had a close relationship with future leaders, who would come to the Reuters office, a converted garage attached to our home in Lusaka, to read the Reuters wire and learn what was happening in their homeland.

He was born in London, to Hugh Rank, a Jewish refugee from Vienna, and his wife, Joan (née Jacobs). Michael studied Oriental Studies at Downing College and later studied linguistics at Cornell University in the US, where he and I met. He was one of the first British Council students to study in China, spending a year at Beida (Peking University) and returning for a second year at Fudan University, Shanghai. He joined the Reuters graduate



Falkland Islands 1990

training scheme in 1978 and his first posting took him back to Beijing as a correspondent. Able to speak, read and write Chinese, he worked incredibly hard deciphering what was going on in this secretive country.

Michael left Reuters in 1999 and worked until retirement for Trade Marks Directory Service, using his knowledge of Chinese, Japanese, Mongolian, Korean, French and German. His colleagues there became his friends and helped to sustain him during his four years of illness.

Michael was a school governor in Hackney, east London, where we lived for 30 years, an avid RSPB birdwatcher, Guardian reader, Labour party stalwart and volunteer for Amnesty and Hackney Pirates literacy project. He continued with journalism and published a scholarly article in the journal *Asian Affairs* on Frank Ludlow, a British educator in Tibet in the 1920s, as well as research on George Orwell for the Orwell Society.

He reported for the Guardian from North Korea in 2010 when he visited Rason in the north-east of the DPRK. He had a final trip to China in 2015, accompanying a group of British and American people who had been interned by the Japanese in the 40s.

Michael is survived by me and our children, Julia and David, and by three sisters, Maggy, Hazel and Carol.

**NORMAN REID CLIFFORD ROBERTON (1957)** died on 2 February 2018, aged 78. He read Natural Sciences. His friend Dr Robert Whitaker writes:

Dr N R Clifford ("Cliff") Roberton MA MB FRCP aged 78 years died suddenly and unexpectedly on 2 February 2018 in the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. After reading medicine at Downing College in 1957–60 he transferred to University College Hospital, London for his clinical studies. He performed his house jobs at UCH where he won three scholarships and came top in the year.

Cliff Roberton was born in Oswaldtwistle and attended school in Accrington.

He trained in neonatal medicine at the Hammersmith Hospital and then at the Nuffield Institute for Medical Research in Oxford. He was then appointed to Clinical Reader in paediatrics at The University of Oxford before being appointed in 1974 as Consultant Neonatologist at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge and Associate Lecturer in Paediatrics in the University of Cambridge. He spent two years as Head of Paediatrics at the Riyadh Armed Forces Hospital in Saudi Arabia. He was a Fellow of Fitzwilliam College and Director of Studies in Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

Cliff had a very distinguished career and was recognised as one of the leaders of neonatal intensive care in the UK. In 1976 he was a founder member of the British Association of Perinatal Medicine. He was elected Secretary of the Paediatric Research Society in 1978, President of the British Association of Perinatal Medicine in 1985–87 and President of the Paediatric Section of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1991–2. He was made an Honorary Member of the Neonatal Society in 1999. He was an author of 71 original papers related to neonatology, the first in 1967 and 36 chapters in textbooks. He retired from his hospital appointment in 1993 and spent much of his time thereafter attending court giving his opinion about difficult neonatal cases. His opinions were much respected.

He was passionate about caring for sick babies and was an inspiring teacher. All the trainees and nurses who worked with him showed him great devotion. He will be particularly remembered for his neonatal textbooks. The first was a pocket book carried by almost every paediatric trainee in the UK, "Manual of Neonatal Intensive Care", first published in 1981 and now in its 5th edition with Dr Janet Rennie. He also published a "Manual of Normal Neonatal Care" in 1986 and "Lecture notes in Neonatology" in 1987. His most erudite offering was the "Textbook of Neonatology", first published in 1986 and now in its 5th edition jointly with Dr Janet Rennie.

He was extremely bright with a quick, clear and retentive mind and a truly Scottish sense of humour. He was great company at all times. He had three children with Mary, his first wife. He leaves Trisha his wife of 38 years and five grandchildren.

**RICHARD ROBERTS (1972)** died on 16 December 2017, aged 67. He studied for a PhD in Economic History. Richard (Dick) Roberts was born in London on 25 November 1950. He was educated at Haberdashers' Aske's Boys School and University College London, where he took a First in History. He completed a doctorate at Downing College in 1982 prior to going to Princeton as a Proctor Fellow.

Professor Roberts joined BP as analyst before returning to academia in 1985 as a lecturer in Economic History at the University of Sussex, where he remained until 2006. His first book in 1992 was an official history of the merchant banking house of Schroders. In 2001 he co-authored (with Christopher Arnander) *Take Your Partners*, the story of the pioneering 1970s consortium bank Orion. He was twice winner of the British Archive Council's Wadsworth Prize for business history: in 2013 for *Saving the City* and again in 2015 jointly with Kynaston for *The Lion Wakes: a modern history of HSBC*.

In 2007 Professor Roberts became Director of the Institute of Contemporary British History (then part of the School of Advanced Study, based in Senate House). By 2010 he had negotiated the Institute's transfer to King's College, London. There he became Professor of Contemporary History. In 2016 the work of the Institute was completed and it was disbanded.

Professor Roberts' last major work was published in September 2017. He co-authored, with William Keegan and David March, *Six Days in September: Black Wednesday, Brexit and the making of Europe*.

In 2001 Professor Roberts married Sarah Roberts who survives him with their two daughters. He enjoyed cinema, music and modern dance.



**KEITH MARSHALL ROBINSON (1966)** died on 11 January 2018, aged 69. His wife, Vanessa writes:

Keith sadly died after being diagnosed with cancer early in summer 2017.

He grew up in Harborne and attended King Edward's School in Birmingham. His was an incredibly narrow education, almost 100% classics, which may explain his struggles with many practical tasks. He took his A levels a year early to concentrate on Oxbridge. His A Levels weren't the best and in fact he was rejected by every University except Cambridge who saw his promise. One of John Hopkins' protégées, he found Downing College terrifying at first but always said it was the making of him and he made many firm relationships amongst the blurred memories of cocktail parties (notably the Griffins) and hours on the croquet lawn. Some lifelong friendships were made, notably with George Pulman and Graham Taylor.

Keith was the Senior Partner of Stallards having joined them in the early eighties from Stephenson Harwood where he trained. He became the driving force in the firm and was Senior Partner for over 20 years. When Stallards merged in 1998 to form Hardwick Stallards, Keith continued as Senior Partner until the next merger to form DMH Stallard. Keith became the Senior Partner, Head of the London Office and led the corporate finance practice. The firm grew significantly and became the nationally recognised practice it is today. He stayed with DMH Stallard for several years slowly pulling back from his management roles. In 2010 he joined Sherrards Solicitors, a smaller practice with offices in London and St Albans (closer to home) and led the corporate finance department.

For Keith, the practice of corporate law was a challenge he relished as he helped develop teams with his collaborative and collegiate management style. Keith never wavered in his support of younger lawyers and trainees who he would always mentor and champion, taking time out of his day to explain and teach others when it came to the 'whys and wherefores' of drafting. At Keith's funeral it was notable how many colleagues, from Stallards to Sherrards, many now very successful lawyers, cited Keith as a significant influence on their careers.

Keith had a core client base who remained loyal and supportive throughout his career, with several clients dating back 35 years and many becoming friends for life. Keith really loved his work, he found it fulfilling and very varied. He especially enjoyed many trips to India and involvement with Indian clients.

Keith and Vanessa met while still at school and went to different universities, but managed a 4th year together at Cambridge. They married as Keith began his articles and had three sons. They write: "Dad seemed to have endless energy and stamina - he certainly enjoyed entertaining and attending parties. Many friends have commented on memories of Dad on the dance floor and a few even admitted to queuing up to be flung around by him at

weddings. One of Dad's great strengths was his remarkable ability to switch between work and social life. When we were younger he was never home on time due to the demands of his work, but was always able to fling himself into family life as soon as he made it back. He could switch his mind from the stresses and busy-ness of work in an instant to socialising, sailing life or the life of shorts, wellies and an anorak in North Wales."

Vanessa and Keith loved travel and once the children left home they were able to visit many far-flung places. Keith took a sabbatical when Vanessa retired and they realised their dream to spend two months in New Zealand touring in a camper van followed by a month in Australia.

Keith had been a very keen sailor for many years, forsaking dinghies for larger vessels, especially tall ships, in his forties. He completed several Fastnet races and enjoyed sailing with his sons as crew members. He spent many weekends, often with them, being wet and occasionally cold, but extremely happy. He loved his role as Company Secretary and Legal Advisor of a charity about which he was passionate, Sail Training International (STI). The goal of STI is to help more people have an adventure at sea and tell the world about sail training and the benefits, especially for under privileged young people, of voyages on the high seas in traditional tall ships. The culmination of a number of years' work was the classic gathering of tall ships in Quebec and Nova Scotia, Canada to commemorate the 150th year of Canadian independence. In Summer 2017, before his treatment commenced, Keith was thrilled to be able to attend the gathering in person with Vanessa.

More recently he became a grandfather to four grandchildren, a role he relished. They live in South London. Vanessa and Keith happily settled into their new home in the Chilterns a few years ago, Keith quickly became Parish Clerk so the village will miss him as much as his family.

**JOHN SIMPKINS (1971)** died on 27 July 2017, aged 65. He read Economics. His friend, **Francois Vainker (1971)**, writes:

John Simpkins died after a long illness. He came up from Edward Heath's alma mater, Chatham House Grammar School in Ramsgate, Kent. He played rugby and captained DCRFC from the second row, to win promotion in 1974 to Division 1, from which Downing has never since been relegated. He also helped out the Boat Club to fill its crew allocations in the Lents and Mays, this at a time when the Boat Club's budgetary allocations were often under attack! He married Caroline Jolley at the beginning of his third year, but this in no way diminished his involvement in College life - he was a College man through and through and made many friends.

After Downing, he joined Arthur Andersen to find himself engaged in the John Stonehouse case and later became Arthur Andersen's man in the Middle East, becoming

an expert in banks' accounting procedures and practices. He led the Middle East inquiry into the collapse of the BCCI. With the Enron scandal breaking in 2001, Arthur Andersen was in the dock, but the partners outside the USA were not pursued. Although in receipt of lucrative offers of employment elsewhere, John first ensured that all his Arthur Andersen colleagues were placed in other posts, before John himself retired back to his beloved Kent.



**CHRISTOPHER ESMOND SMITH (1957)** died on 6 September 2016, aged 80. He read Business Studies. His son, Nigel, writes:

Christopher died peacefully due to complications from Alzheimer's at his residence in Framingham, Massachusetts. He leaves behind his wife Diana of the last 23 years, two sons Timothy and Nigel, two daughters-in-law, Felicia and Cassie and four grandchildren, Anna, Christopher, Charlotte and Richard, as well as countless extended family and friends in both the US and his native England.

Christopher was born in Witham to Esmond and Olive Smith. He grew up on the family farm where his sense of practicality, ingenuity and penchant for early morning wake up calls was born. He attended Oundle School as a pre-teen and, following National Service commissioned as an Officer in the Royal Engineers, continued his education at Downing College.

In 1963 he started his 'US life' when moving to the Boston area to attend Harvard Business School. From there his professional life began by working at Arthur D. Little (ADL) Consulting where his early career was focused on Alcoa and Brazilian Steel. After ADL he harnessed his entrepreneurial spirit and co-founded multiple companies in both the energy and steel industries. He was able to leverage his international experiences and enter the venture capital world with Advent International where he had Asia/Pacific management responsibilities.

Outside of his professional life Christopher was an avid sportsman on the golf course, tennis court and in the woods hunting pheasant and quail. He especially enjoyed the unique relationship between hunting and working with his superbly trained gun dogs. Beyond sport, he was a gourmet chef and often said that if he were not a businessman, he would love to be reincarnated as a butcher.

As a loving husband and father he was most happy sharing a meal and reconnecting on the adventures and professional accomplishments of his family. He appreciated his unique position of trying to raise two American sons and never understanding the subtleties of what that meant compared to his English childhood. Needless to say he never was able to throw a curveball nor were his sons able to bowl around the wicket.

In accordance with his wishes Chris's ashes were laid to rest by his family (on the spot he once lay down to demonstrate to me!) adjacent to the 11th Green of the Country Club.

**JOHN TREVOR SOWREY (1954)** died on 7 February 2018, aged 84. He read History. Mr Sowrey attended Leeds Modern School and arrived at Downing after two years National Service. After Downing he took a PhD at Strathclyde University. His career was spent in marketing and then lecturing about marketing at Leeds Polytechnic (now Leeds Beckett University).



**RICHARD ALEXANDER GORDON STUART (1944)** died on 15 February 2017, aged 91. He read Modern Languages. The following obituary appeared in the *Sunday Herald*, written by Phil Davison and we are very grateful to the *Sunday Herald* for agreeing to its reproduction:

Gordon Stuart was a hyperpolyglot – a multi-linguist who spoke or understood, as confirmed by international linguistic organisations, no less than 28 languages. Few people in history can have equalled or surpassed that. Apart from the “usual” West European languages, he learned to speak fluently Dutch, Flemish, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Czech, Slovakian, Russian, Ukrainian, Afrikaans, Welsh and our own Scottish Gaelic. Add to that Wendish, spoken by ethnic Slavs in Germany, and Catalan, the original language of Barcelona and Catalonia in Spain.

In his native Scotland, he was also known as the longtime owner of Colliston Castle near Arbroath, where he lived most of his life. The castle dates from the reign of Henry VIII in the 16th century.

Richard Alexander Gordon Stuart – always known as Gordon – was born on December 28, 1925, in Kobe, Japan, where his Scottish father Robert Alexander Stuart was an expat banker for the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC). In Kobe, Robert met Dorothy Kirby, a Welsh-English girl who had been born in Kobe to an expat English businessman in Japan. They married and had Gordon.

After leaving Japan at the age of two, following his father's banking travels, young Gordon was educated at King William's College on the Isle of Man – known to locals and pupils as King Bill's – at the time a boys'-only school. Going up to Downing College, Cambridge, he graduated with a degree in Latin, Greek, French and German, followed by a further degree in Polish and Russian at the University of London. At

Cambridge, he was Captain of the University's Fencing team in the first few years after the war.

He returned to Scotland to work as a farmer in Angus, still studying languages in every spare moment, before becoming a teacher, latterly at Arbroath High School. For health reasons, he was unable to serve in the armed forces but instead volunteered for the Royal Observer Corps, a civil defence organisation involved in aircraft recognition and nuclear warfare analysis. Mr Stuart did some important work during the Cold War, spotting and monitoring potential enemy aircraft.

In 1983, he inherited from his father Colliston Castle which, outside his family and a fascination with aircraft, became the love of his life. After retiring from teaching, he remained much in demand as translator into English from multiple languages, particularly those, such as Hungarian and Finnish, for which few translators were available in Scotland or indeed the UK.

"Language and translating was a huge part of his life," his wife Judy told The Herald. "He was the go-to person for anyone who sometimes didn't even know what language the document they needed translated was in! Every year he would attend a linguist conference in Western Europe. Had he been an MEP, he wouldn't have needed an interpreter as he could use all those languages freely."

Mr Stuart became a member of many professional institutes of linguistics and until his death was President of the Chartered Institute of Linguists (Scottish Society). He was named a Fellow of the Institute of Translating and Interpreting and in 1990 came second in a linguistic competition entitled Polyglot of Europe.

He was also hugely interested in politics and government and stood for Parliament in West Lothian for the Unionist Party in the 1964 general election. He had no chance against Labour (the late Tam Dalyell) or the SNP but he did double the Tory vote.

Especially after his retirement, while still doing translation work, taking care of Colliston Castle was Mr Stuart's passion. It was built in 1545 by Cardinal Beaton, abbot of nearby Arbroath Abbey, originally as a Z-plan Tower House and later extended in the 18th and 19th centuries. The castle features a pepperpot turret, a magnificent barrel-vaulted ceiling in the hallway and a "priest hole," a hiding place for priests during the time of persecution of Catholics.

Mr Stuart, his wife Judy and their family made the castle a site for parties and receptions, with marquees in the 10 acres of mature gardens, woodland and parkland. Before Mr Stuart sold the castle five years ago, his daughter Valerie said:

"Four generations of my family have lived here, from my grandfather down to my own children. The castle really does have the wow factor when people walk in but it is also a fabulous family home. It has the character and sense of history which gives it an amazing feel."

Gordon and Judy Stuart sold the castle to be close to Valerie and her husband Jonny Orchard, who run the picturesque Camusdarach campsite between Arisaig and Mallaig on the Road to the Isles.

“Gordon spent many a happy hour loving language and latterly battling technology as he got to grips with computers,” said his wife Judy. “He loved to travel and visited every country in Europe, learning the languages of most along the way. He was a keen skier and hill-walker and he loved history, recently even writing a simple history of Scotland for his grandchildren. And he was an avid reader of the Sunday Post throughout his life.”

“He was also a keen member of the Stewart Society, serving for some years as their European Commissioner, when he had contact with Stewarts all over the continent, many of them relieved to hear him speak their language fluently. The Swedish Stewart Society made him an honorary member.”

Gordon Stuart, who died at home in Arisaig, is survived by Judy, his wife of 51 years, four children, six grandchildren and his two sisters.



**JAMES EDWARD SUGDEN OBE (1965)** died on 28 December 2017, aged 71. He read Economics. The following obituary appeared in *The Huddersfield Examiner* which we are reproducing with their kind permission:

James Edward Sugden was committed to maintaining traditional skills in the textile industry throughout his life and by the time he retired was without doubt the leading expert in textiles in the country.

Mr Sugden was born in Huddersfield in September 1946. His early years were spent in Huddersfield at Berry Brow and later Netherton and he was educated at St David's Preparatory School in Huddersfield and Sedbergh School in Cumbria where he became Head of House. After marrying his wife Linda in 1973 they lived in Wooldale at first followed by Wilshaw. After A Levels in French and German at school he gained a degree in Economics from Downing College Cambridge in 1968 and joined R Beanland & Co in Scissett while taking an evening textile course at Huddersfield College of Technology where he obtained a Licentiate'ship of the Textile Institute in textiles.

He had a spell at W&J Whitehead in Laisterdyke before he moved on to MP Stonehouse in Wakefield, his family in law's business, and after they were taken over by Readicut he accepted an offer in 1987 to move north to Elgin to join Johnstons of Elgin in Scotland as Sales Director, quickly becoming Managing Director in 1988. Here his enthusiasm, drive and good business sense were instrumental in expanding Johnston's business substantially from a small weaving mill into a global brand.

In the subsequent 25 years he developed Johnstons into becoming the leading UK manufacturer of cashmere products, renowned for its fabric and accessories and more recently knitwear where the company developed from scratch a new knitwear facility

in the borders town of Hawick. Johnstons' turnover rose in the period of his tenure from £5m to over £60m and their products are now exported to more than 30 countries and the company is known the world over. No mean feat for a company in a declining industry.

Mr Sugden travelled widely to meet suppliers on their territory and to source cashmere from China and the upper grasslands of Inner Mongolia while at the same time expanding the company's customer base into a who's who of fashion brands. He revived Johnstons into a British powerhouse in textiles, known the world over.

In 1994 under his leadership the Company gained the Queen's Award for Export and continued to prosper. James never forgot his Yorkshire roots and whenever any outwork for a particular process was needed his first port of call would be a Yorkshire firm and he used skills from Yorkshire in many other fields such as carding repairs.

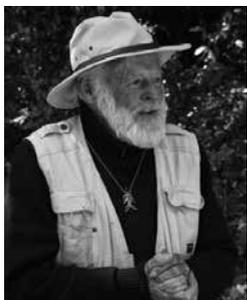
In 2005 he moved to the Borders of Scotland to Hawick in order to develop the knitwear business there. Once again, he painstakingly transformed the business, overseeing new products, suppliers and customers to the great benefit of the town, and enhanced the reputation of the company significantly. By the time he retired in 2013 he was without doubt the leading expert in textiles in the country and his knowledge of the textile industry was unsurpassable.

Mr Sugden's brother, Robert, said: "James loved his home town of Huddersfield and had a remarkable knowledge of the history and development of the textile industry, the families and the mills. He was well respected by customers, suppliers and not least his employees, He was generous with his time and advice, had boundless energy and a great ability to get on with everybody from all walks of life. Nothing was too much trouble and he was modest at all times. Every morning on arrival at work his first task, schedule permitting, was to walk around the mill greeting the incoming workforce. Such a gesture enabled him a great rapport with all his employees on every level.

"While living in Yorkshire he was church warden at Holy Trinity Church, following in his father's footsteps, and wherever he went he would support the local church. He was honest, respectful, understated, insightful, humble, able and dependable. Above all he loved his family, his dogs, and his garden and supported his children when they all chose their own textile ventures which gave him huge pleasure, especially when his son, John, acquired Campbells of Beauy and carried on the family textile tradition."

Mr Sugden leaves his wife Linda, his three children Emily, John and Rosie, and four grandchildren.

*Editor's note: A Memorial Service was held on 23 May and as a singular mark of esteem in which Mr Sugden was held, it was attended by HRH the Prince of Wales as Patron of the Scottish Tartans Authority.*



**RAYMOND ERNEST SUTCLIFFE (1959)** died on 3 February 2018, aged 77. He read History. His friend **John Austin (1959)** writes:

Ray came up as an Exhibitioner. Having lost his mother at an early age, he lost his father (and his home) in his first term, but was invited by the College to stay on over Christmas and was then enabled to continue his studies through the generosity of the College. He was really appreciative of this and in his will, left an extremely generous bequest to Downing. He joined the

Boat Club as a cox and was a very popular contributor to the Club's activities both on and off the water. Later he was a regular visitor to College events and Henley Regatta.

In a tribute at Ray's funeral, John Price wrote about his time at Downing "Although he did attend some lectures, he spent much time ensconced at the bar of a local hostelry, where he could frequently be found with his pipe firmly gripped between his teeth, holding forth on some issue or other of the day. Ray was undoubtedly very intelligent and loved many aspects of his subject. There were, however, two problems; firstly, he did not work very hard at those aspects of History that interested him least – and unfortunately, those were the subjects that tended to come up in examinations; and secondly, his handwriting was indecipherable at times – a problem that did not disappear with age. This latter problem turned out to be an unexpected bonus at the time of his finals. One of his papers was completely unreadable to the examiners, so he was asked to read it out to a small panel of dons. Realising that he had made some fundamental errors in this paper, he was able, in reading out loud, to change some of what he had written to a more correct and acceptable answer. No-one else realised that his reading differed from the written paper and he probably salvaged a degree class by this quick thinking".

Ray joined the BBC in 1963 and spent the next 30 years as a specialist producer of History and Archaeological programmes. He was a founder member of the "Chronicle" series which ran for over 200 programmes from 1966 to 1990. A 1988 film watched British Museum conservator Nigel Williams' year-long restoration of the Portland vase: Ray said a photographer ignored strict instructions on the use of lights, and 'the ageing adhesive failed spectacularly and the planned conservation process began rather earlier than intended'.

Ray pioneered Marine Archaeology on film and amongst the documentaries he produced was the rescue of the SS Great Britain from a rusting hulk on the Falkland Islands to its triumphant return to Bristol, with Ray on board. In 1989 he took his film crew to Western Australia to tell the *Batavia* story, for one of the final *Chronicle* films. Ray fell in love with Australia, especially the West and continued to visit fairly regularly for the next 21 years. He also produced programmes on the Mary Rose, the Spanish Armada, the Vikings and many other maritime subjects. His last programme was *The Electric*

*Revolution* – the archaeology of electricity, creating a unique record of the interior of Battersea Power Station immediately after its shutdown. ‘The exciting aspect of making an archaeology programme’, he said, ‘is that nothing goes to plan.’

Ray appeared with fellow broadcasters Sir David Attenborough, David Collison and Anna Benson Gyles in a filmed Personal Histories event at the University of Cambridge in 2009. Maritime archaeology, he said, was ‘an area where the viewers couldn’t go themselves. You could take them somewhere, as David takes people into wild jungles, somewhere where the viewer themselves couldn’t actually participate; so it broadened that experience completely.’

He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1969. He was also Council member and Vice-President of the Society for Nautical Research, formerly Chairman of the Council for Nautical Archaeology, as well as Chairman of the Nautical Museums Trust, as well as serving on committees concerned with Heritage and Nautical Archaeology.

Ray had acquired a wide circle of friends and ex-colleagues with whom he kept in constant touch, travelling frequently to meet up. He was never without his pipe, a hat, a nearby glass (of beer, or schnapps) and an informed view of the world. He never learnt to drive or swim, and eschewed any modern gadgetry such as a computer, the internet or mobile phone. Ray and I often met at Richmond Theatre and some local pubs.

Ray had no family and died of a heart attack at his home in Hampton Wick at the beginning of February. The crematorium was packed out with friends. An hour of tributes, jazz and songs followed, then we moved on to a wake, organised by his friend and executor, (Adrian Barak) at Ray’s local, The Foresters Arms, in Hampton Wick to enjoy a most wonderful seafood buffet (Ray loved the sea and all its food) and joyful celebration of his life. Downing was represented by, **David Parr**, **Andrew MacTavish (1958)**, **David Peregrine-Jones (1960)**, Susan Esden and myself.

*The Master, Fellows and Scholars wish to acknowledge the generosity of Ray Sutcliffe who was a member of Downing’s 1749 Society and benefited the College in his Will.*



**ALBERT TAYLOR (1953)** died on 5 September, aged 85. He read Natural Sciences followed by Geography. His daughter, Esther, writes:

Albert was the first in his family to attend a university, as the second son of a steelworks foreman from Corby, Northants. After two years studying Russian in the Army Intelligence Corps, Albert arrived at Cambridge in 1953. He read Natural Sciences at Downing College and obtained a Postgraduate Certificate in Education.

After teaching in Kettering Grammar School, Albert sailed for East Africa in 1960. As one of the “Cambridge Seventy”, he was part of a wave of graduates who went into mission service all over the world. Albert initially taught science and maths at Busoga College, Mwiri, Uganda. Then in 1963, he became the first Church of Uganda School’s Worker and Scripture Union Travelling Secretary, pioneering a work that has impacted a whole nation.

Today, everywhere you go in Uganda, you meet people whose faith and ethics were grounded in the study of the Bible in a Scripture Union school club. One of them is President Yoweri Museveni, who is in many respects considered one of Africa’s greatest leaders. In 2012, Albert and Elisabeth Taylor were the President’s guests of honour at the Scripture Union Jubilee celebrations in Kampala.

From 1972 – 1980, Albert worked for the Kenya Teachers Christian Fellowship, based in Nairobi. It was in Kenya that Albert discovered the dimensions of healing and deliverance in the Gospels. This was a pivotal point in his life and work. When the family returned to England in 1980, in Oxford, Albert founded Christ Centred Transformation, a prayer counseling ministry and spent the rest of his life practicing and teaching in this field.

From the early 1990s, the Taylors travelled extensively, holding seminars and training workshops on healing and deliverance everywhere from Chile to Indonesia. Their book, “Ministering Below the Surface”, a practical and accessible guide to overcoming inner brokenness for pastors and lay people, has been translated into seven languages. One week before his death, work was completed on a short video where he spoke about what he hoped would be his spiritual legacy. This can be viewed at <http://freeandhealed.com/mbs-legacy/>

Albert Taylor was a deeply compassionate pioneer who left a spiritual legacy in many lives around the globe. Albert is remembered as a humorous and loving husband, father, teacher and friend. He is survived by his wife, Elisabeth, his son, David, daughter, Esther and five grandchildren.



**GEOFFREY SAMUEL GUY TOMS (1953)** died on 12 May 2018, aged 84. He read Classics. One of his two daughters-in-law, Fiona Weston, has provided the following which is adapted from the eulogy read at his funeral.

Born in Twickenham in February 1934, the only child of Ernest and Elizabeth Toms, Geoffrey was educated at the Mall Prep School before winning a scholarship to St Paul’s. During his five years at the school, Geoffrey became a prefect and captain of his house, and participated in cricket and boxing, continuing the latter during National Service.

In 1953, Geoffrey went up to Downing College with an Exhibition to read Classics with



Classical Archaeology. He spent three happy years there, gaining both a degree (Part I: first; Part II, upper second) and a fiancée – in the form of Barbara Cape, who was studying at the nearby Homerton Teachers' Training College. According to time-honoured tradition, Geoffrey proposed to her at the Downing College May Ball in his final year.

Two years of National Service followed, with Geoffrey being commissioned into the Royal Signals, during which he and Barbara married. After National Service, Geoffrey undertook a Diploma in Education at Oxford University and in 1959 Geoffrey and Barbara moved to the Wirral, where Geoffrey had secured a position as assistant master in the classics department at Birkenhead Grammar School. It was here that his sons Christopher and Paul were born.

In 1963, the family moved to Tiverton, where Geoffrey had been appointed Head of the Classics department at Blundell's School. While there, Geoffrey began running excavations of Romano-British sites in Dorset, with boys from Blundell's and Birkenhead doing the digging. One of their most important finds was the skeleton of a late Iron Age warrior with all his weapons, which was displayed for many years in the Dorchester Museum. He went on to be involved in many other digs in Dorset and Shropshire, most notably at Wroxeter Roman City.

In 1968, Geoffrey moved from school-teaching into adult education, taking on the role of Deputy Warden, and later Warden, at Attingham Hall, an adult education college in Shropshire and simultaneously holding the post of staff lecturer in the Department of Extramural Studies at Birmingham University.

There was enormous demand at that time for courses on all aspects of the civilisation of Greece and Rome and Geoffrey was among those who pioneered the teaching of classics in adult education. However, Attingham closed in 1976 and in 1977 Geoffrey, now separated (and subsequently divorced) from Barbara, moved back to London to take up the role of Education Officer at the revamped Museum of London in its new, purpose-built setting overlooking the remains of London's Roman wall. Geoffrey could not have been more in his element and by the early 1980s had risen to become Director of the Education Department, a post he remained in until his retirement in 1994.

While at the museum he published numerous articles in various archaeological publications and thoroughly immersed himself in the stimulating academic life the role offered him. He relished the opportunity to be involved in shaping the museum's presentation of the history of London to future generations and to continue his hands-on lecturing, both to adults, in the lunchtime lectures he instituted and to the many school parties that visited.

Retirement for Geoffrey proved to be busy. He launched himself as a freelance consultant lecturer on the history and archaeology of London and the eastern Mediterranean, offering one-off lectures and longer courses. He worked extensively for several American universities with London residencies, as well as for various historical and archaeological groups, joining the NADFAS directory of lecturers in 1997. He fast became one of their most popular speakers and addressed hundreds of NADFAS societies across the UK, plus sister societies in Spain and Australia.

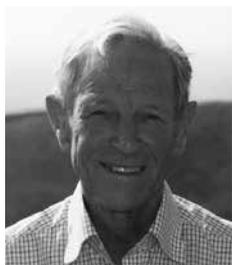
For a number of years, Geoffrey was a guest lecturer on Mediterranean cruises for both Cunard and Swan Hellenic, and he started his own travel business, leading study tours all over the Mediterranean.

Geoffrey was a popular speaker at several adult education establishments, including Maryland College and Knuston Hall. He especially loved giving weekend courses at Knuston and it was therefore fitting that, in January 2018, it was there that Geoffrey delivered his very last weekend course – on the Minoans and Mycenaeans – ending, as he had begun, with his first love, the ancient history of the eastern Mediterranean.

As well as his passion for history and archaeology, Geoffrey also loved gardening, classical music (particularly opera) and art. He was an excellent cook, and a keen supporter of the RNLI, presenting an annual award for the most meritorious service. An eternal optimist, Geoffrey faced the diagnosis of advanced prostate cancer bravely, living life to the full on his own terms until just the last few months.

**GEOFFREY MALCOLM TOWNSEND (1949)** died on 27 April 2017, aged 89. He read Natural Sciences followed by Geography.

**DAVID JAMES TREWIN (1943)** died on 15 March 2018, aged 92. He read Mechanical Sciences. During his career he served as Company Secretary of Schweppes Limited.



**IAN HOWARTH WALTER (1951)** died on Christmas Eve 2016, aged 87. He read Modern and Medieval Languages followed by History. His son, Jonathan, writes:

Despite the ration books and post-war austerity, Cambridge in the early 1950s was a place of boundless opportunities and Ian seized them with both hands. He loved Downing and he loved Cambridge. After three years, he emerged with a degree in History, some hairy alpine peaks bagged, glorious rowing



Henley 1953

memories, a set of friends for life and the woman that would become his wife on his arm.

Rowing became his passion. He was Captain of Boats in 1953–54. “No other sport gripped me so much”, he once said. He raced in the Bumps of course and took the Downing eight to Henley in 1953. He remained close friends with his fellow crew throughout their lives. Tom

Tipler and David Pearson from the Downing boat both attended his funeral.

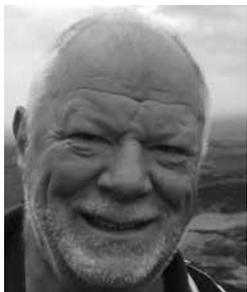
Mountaineering was another of Ian’s passions and his arrival at Downing happily coincided with a golden age in the history of the Cambridge University Mountaineering Club (CUMC), which he swiftly joined. After learning the ropes in North Wales he leaped at the chance to spend a summer season climbing in the Swiss Alps in 1952. He scaled several 4,000m summits, including the Obergabelhorn, whose 60 degree ice slopes – graded nearly as hard as the north face of the Matterhorn, he described as “rather steep”. The trip was led by George Band, president of the CUMC, who was selected the following year as the youngest member of John Hunt’s successful Mt Everest expedition.

In between climbing, rowing and studying, Ian somehow found time to sail with the Cambridge University Cruising Club, dance Scottish reels, sing madrigals, attend numerous May Balls and keep an eye out for an attractive mate. He met Valerie Duke while she was studying for teacher training at Homerton College and they tied the knot in 1956.

They settled in West Sussex, where Ian took over the family publishing business. They were happily married for nearly half a century until Valerie’s death in 2003. They are survived by their three children, Deborah, Robin and Jonathan and six grandchildren – also avid sailors and hikers.

Ian had a wonderful sense of humour, a twinkle in his eye and a strong Christian faith, which supported him and those around him until his last breath. He is much missed.

**NICHOLAS ANTHONY WARING (1948)** died on 5 October 2017, aged 87. He read Natural Sciences.



**DAVID WILLIAM LYLE WIGHTMAN (1962)** died on 1 January 2018, aged 73. He read Economics. His friend **Ian Hazelhurst (1962)** writes:

David Wightman died from a heart seizure whilst walking in the Lake District on New Year's Day this year. He was 73 years old. David was a pupil at Manchester Grammar School and came up to Downing in 1962 to read Economics. Although not a great sportsman himself David was a keen follower of both the College football and cricket teams in the capacity as a referee and umpire. His decisions on the pitch were final and not to be tampered with and appeals of "offside ref!" and "Howzatt umpire!" could be treated with disdain. Dave's succinct after match analyses were much appreciated – not necessarily by our opponents – and their fluency was invariably supported by a couple of pints of beer.

After graduation David worked initially with English Electric and subsequently spent the majority of his successful business career as a consultant with the PA Consulting Group. He specialised in the financial and banking sectors and travelled extensively, including a stay in USA and considerable time in Africa.

His strong Christian beliefs became an important part of David's life and he played an increasingly active role in his local Church of England Church, St Michael's and All Angels, in Macclesfield. He led a major renovation project to restructure the fabric of its buildings and became involved in many local initiatives including concerts, exhibitions, and an Open Door Cafe.

Upon his retirement from consultancy David became ordained as a priest and as the Reverend David Wightman became the Town Centre Minister for Macclesfield. His innovative work included night shelters for the homeless, lunchtime discussion groups for office workers and a Street Angels scheme to help the poor.

David had a 'can do' attitude which earned him the respect of all those who worked with him in the community and, as in his days at Downing, was at his best arguing his case with a challenging audience.

He leaves behind his wife Christine, who was his key supporter, children Simon and Jenny and grandchildren Joseph and Thomas.

**JOHN EDGAR WILMOT (1951)** died on 6 March 2018, aged 87. He read History. He was a stockbroker and in 2005 joined the Liverpool Research Group in Macroeconomics. He was also year representative for pre 1951 until 2001. His daughter Nicola writes:

John Edgar Wilmot, died peacefully on 6 March 2018. Beloved husband of Joyce, loved father of Nicola and Neil, and devoted grandfather to Adam and Claudia. John's family would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and words of condolence at this time.

**CHARLES NEVILLE WRIDGWAY (1950)** died on 24 August 2016, aged 87. He read Natural Sciences.

As the Newsletter was going to press it was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of **JULIAN CHILDS (1969)** on 24 July 2018. Julian was a member of the Executive Committee from 2005-2011, President of the Association from 2006-2007 and Chair of the Merchandise Working Group from 2009-2011 where he was central to developing the Association's merchandising side, which now makes a substantial contribution to the Alumni Student Fund. We hope to include a full obituary in next year's Newsletter.

*The Master, Fellows and Scholars wish to acknowledge the generosity of all those who have benefited the College in their Wills in the past year, as well as over the generations. Some such donors had notified the College of their intentions during their lifetimes, becoming members of the 1749 Society. For more information about the 1749 Society please contact Susan Esden 01223 334850 or [sal53@cam.ac.uk](mailto:sal53@cam.ac.uk).*



## THE FELLOWSHIP

### THE PATRON

THE DUCHESS OF KENT GCVO

### THE MASTER

GEOFFREY GRIMMETT MA (Oxon) DPhil (Oxon) DSc (Oxon) ScD FRS, Professor of Mathematical Statistics

### THE FELLOWS (IN ORDER OF ADMISSION)

PAUL CHRISTOPHER MILLETT MA PhD, *Vice-Master*, Collins Fellow in Classics, Senior Lecturer in Classics (1983)

WILLIAM MARK ADAMS MA MSc (London) PhD, Fellow in Geography, Moran Professor of Conservation and Development (1984)

TREVOR WILLIAM CLYNE MA PhD FEng, *Interim Dean from 14 April 2018* Fellow in the Mechanics of Materials, Professor of the Mechanics of Materials (1985)

CATHERINE LYNETTE PHILLIPS BA (Queens) MA (Toronto) PhD, R J Owens Fellow in English (1988)

GRAHAM JOHN VIRGO MA BCL (Oxon) QC (hon), Fellow in Law, Professor of English Private Law, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) (1989)

DAVID JOHN WALES MA PhD ScD FRSC, Fellow in Chemistry, Professor of Chemical Physics (1989)

CHRISTOPHER ALLIM HANIFF MA PhD, *Fellows' Steward*, Fellow in Physics, Professor of Physics and Deputy Head of Department (1993)

NICHOLAS COLEMAN BSc MB ChB (Bristol) PhD FMedSci, Verjee Fellow in Medicine, Professor of Molecular Pathology (1994)

ADAM NOEL LEDGEWAY BA (Salford) MA (Manchester) PhD (Manchester), Fellow in Italian, Professor of Italian and Romance Linguistics (1996)

IAN RICHARD JAMES MA MA (Warwick) PhD (Warwick), *Graduate Tutor, Fellow Librarian* Fellow in Modern and Medieval Languages, Reader in Modern French Literature and Thought (1996)

SUSAN ELIZABETH LINTOTT MA PhD (Kent), *Senior Bursar, Senior Treasurer to the Boat Club Senior Treasurer of Downing Dramatic Society* (1997)

ZOE HELEN BARBER MA PhD, Fellow in Materials Science and Metallurgy, Professor of Materials Science (2000)

SOPHIA DEMOULINI BA (Wooster) MSc (Minnesota) PhD (Minnesota), Fellow in Pure Mathematics (2000)

IAN GARETH ROBERTS BA (Bangor) MA (Salford) PhD (Southern California) LittD FBA, Fellow in Linguistics, Professor of Linguistics (2000)

MICHAEL TREVOR BRAVO BEng (Carleton) MPhil PhD, Fellow in Geography, Senior Lecturer at the Scott Polar Research Institute (2001)

DAVID ROBERT PRATT MA PhD FRHistS, *Fellow Archivist, Keeper of Art and Artefacts*, Fellow in History (2001)

DAVID JOHN FELDMAN MA DCL (Oxon) LLD (hon Bristol) FBA FRSA QC (hon), Fellow in Law, Rouse Ball Professor of English Law (2003)

LIPING XU BSc (Beijing) PhD, Fellow in Engineering, Lecturer in Turbomachinery (2004)

PAUL DEREK BARKER BSc (Imperial) MA DPhil (Oxon), Fellow in Chemistry, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry (2004)

GUY BARNETT WILLIAMS BA PhD, *Senior Tutor, President of the Downing Boat Club*, Fellow in Clinical Neurosciences, Assistant Director of Information Processing at the Wolfson Brain Imaging Centre (2004)

MARCUS TOMALIN MPhil MA PhD, *Tutor, Undergraduate Admissions Tutor, Graduate Admissions Tutor, Tutor, Senior Treasurer of the Music Society*, Fellow in English, Research Associate in the Machine Intelligence Laboratory at the Department of Engineering (2004)

JAY THEODORE STOCK BA (Trent) MA MSc (Guelph) PhD (Toronto), *Graduate Admissions Tutor, Graduate Tutor, Tutor*, Fellow in Archaeology and Anthropology, Reader in Human Evolution and Adaptability (2005)

NATALIA MORA-SITJA BSc (Barcelona) MA (Barcelona) MSc (Oxon) DPhil (Oxon), *Tutor*, Fellow in History, Senior Lecturer in Economic History (2005)

WILLIAM O'NEILL BSc (Essex) MSc (Essex) PhD (Imperial), Stephen Peel Fellow in Engineering, Professor of Laser Engineering (2006)

AMY CATHERINE GOYMOUR MA BCL (Oxon), *Tutor*, Fellow in Law, Lecturer in Land Law (2006)

AMY LOUISE MILTON MA PhD, *Praelector*, Ferreras Willetts Fellow in Neuroscience, Lecturer in Experimental Psychology (2007)

BRIGITTE STEGER MA MPhil (Vienna) PhD (Vienna), Fellow in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Senior Lecturer in Japanese Studies (2007)

JIE LI BS (Wuhan) MS (Paris) PhD (Paris), Fellow in Engineering, Lecturer in Fluid Dynamics (2009)

- KEITH JAMES EYEONS MA MA (Nottingham) PhD, *Praelector, Chaplain, Secretary to the Governing Body*, Fellow in Theology (2010)
- ROBERT KEITH HARLE MA PhD, *Dean*, Fellow in Computer Science, Senior Lecturer in Computer Science (2010)
- TIMOTHY JAMES BURTON MA MB BChir PhD, *Tutor*, Fellow in Pharmacology, Clinical Lecturer in Translational Medicine and Therapeutics (2010)
- MARTA MORGADO CORREIA BA (Lisbon) PhD, Fellow in Biological Sciences, Senior Investigator Scientist at the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit (2010)
- ALICIA HINAREJOS BA (Valencia) MPhil (Valencia) BA (UNED) MJur MPhil DPhil (Oxon), Fellow in Law, Senior Lecturer in Law (2011)
- KAMRAN YUNUS BSc (Bath) MA PhD (Bath), *Undergraduate Admissions Tutor*, Fellow in Chemical Engineering, Technical Officer at the Department of Engineering and Biotechnology (2012)
- JOHN STUART RICHER MA PhD, Fellow in Physics, Professor of Physics (2013)
- SARAH LILIAN KENNEDY BA (Melbourne) LLB (Melbourne) PhD, *Fellow Development Ambassador*, Fellow in English (2013)
- MÓNICA MORENO FIGUEROA BA (León) MA MA (Mexico City) MA (Goldsmiths) PhD (Goldsmiths), Fellow in Social Sciences, Senior Lecturer in Sociology (2014)
- BRENDAN PLANT BEc (Sydney) LLB (Sydney) MSc (LSE) PhD, *Fellow Editor*, Hopkins Parry Fellow in Law (2014)
- HARRIET GROOM MA MSci MA PhD, *Tutor*, Henslow Research Fellow in Natural Sciences (Biological) (2015)
- ANDREW NICHOLAS HOLDING MChem (Oxon) PhD, MRSC *Tutor, Senior Treasurer of the Amalgamation Club, Tutor*, Fellow in Biochemistry, Senior Research Associate at Cancer Research UK's Cambridge Institute (2015)
- RUTH ELLEN NISBET BSc (UCL) PhD, Fellow in Biochemistry (2015)
- EWAN JAMES JONES BA MPhil PhD, *Graduate Tutor*, Fellow in English, Lecturer in Nineteenth-Century Literature (2015)
- EDWARD CAVANAGH BA (Canberra) BA (Melbourne) MA (Witwatersrand) PhD (Ottawa), FRHistS, Isaac Newton Research Fellow in History (2016)
- PRIYANKA JOSHI MSc (Pune) PhD, Everitt Butterfield Research Fellow in Biochemistry (2016)
- MICHAEL CRISP MEng PhD, Fellow in Engineering, Lecturer in Photonic and RF Systems (2017)
- NICHOLAS RAWLINSON BSc (Monash) PhD (Monash), Fellow in Earth Sciences, BP Foundation McKenzie Professor of Earth Sciences (2017)
- ZOE KOURTZI BSc (Crete) MA (Newark), Fellow in Cognitive Neuroscience, Professor of Experimental Psychology (2017)

**MORGAN FELLOW**

ARIEL GOMEZ DIAZ BSc (Bogata) MSc (ICL) MSc (Paris) PhD (Oxon)

**THE HONORARY FELLOWS**

GILES SKEY BRINDLEY MA MD (London) FRS

SIR FRANCIS GRAHAM SMITH MA PhD FRS

SIR ARNOLD STANLEY VINCENT BURGEN MA FMedSci FRS

SIR ALAN BOWNESS MA CBE

DAME JANET ABBOTT BAKER MusD (hon) LLD (hon) CH DBE

ALAN NORMAN HOWARD MA PhD FRIC

SIR TREVOR ROBERT NUNN BA CBE

GODFREY MICHAEL BRADMAN FCA

SIR COLIN BRIAN BLAKEMORE MA ScD FRS FMedSci FRSB FBPhS

MARTIN JOHN KEMP MA FBA

RICHARD JOHN BOWRING MA PhD LittD

DAVID STANLEY INGRAM BSc MA PhD (Hull) ScD DUniv (hon Open) OBE VMH FRSE

SIR QUENTIN SAXBY BLAKE MA DLitt (hon Loughborough) CBE FCS D FRSL RDI FRA

THE RT HON LORD COLLINS OF MAPESBURY LLD FBA

SIR DAVID ANTHONY KING ScD FRS

THE RT REV'D NICHOLAS THOMAS WRIGHT MA DPhil DD

SIR JOHN PENDRY MA PhD FInstP FRS

SIR WILLIAM BRIAN VICKERS PhD DLitt FBA

AITAZ AHSAN MA LLB (Lahore) LLM Barrister at Law

JOHN LAWRENCE CARDY MA PhD FRS

HOWARD ERIC JACOBSON MA

THE RT HON SIR KIM MARTIN JORDAN LEWISON MA

AIR CHIEF MARSHALL SIR STUART PEACH BA (SHEFFIELD) MPhil DTech (hon Kingston)

GBE KCB ADC DL

THE RT HON LORD LLOYD-JONES MA LLB

THE RT HON SIR RICHARD GEORGE BRAMWELL MCCOMBE MA FRCS (hon)

BARRY JOHN EVERITT BSc (Hull) PhD (Birmingham) MA ScD DSc (hon Hull) DSc (hon

Birmingham) FRS FMedSci

MICHAEL APTED BA CMG

MARTIN BAKER MA FRCO

STEPHEN CHAMBERS MA (Chelsea School of Art) RA

CAROLINE WILSON MA MA (Bruxelles) CMG

**THE EMERITUS FELLOWS**

ALFRED THOMAS GROVE MA

IAN BONAR TOPPING MA

ROBERT JOHN RICHARDS MA PhD

CHARLES HARPUM MA LLB LLD QC(hon)

JOHN ALAN HOPKINS MA LLB

MARTIN JOSHUA MAYS MA PhD

PHILIP HUSON RUBERY MA PhD ScD

CHARLES PORTER ELLINGTON BA (Duke) MA PhD FRS

MARGERY ANN BARRAND BSc (London) PhD (London)

RICHARD MICHAEL SMITH BA (London) MA (Oxon) PhD FBA

STAFFORD WITHINGTON BEng (Bradford) PhD (Manchester)

PETER JAMES DUFFETT-SMITH MA PhD

PETER DAVID EVANS MA PhD ScD

PAUL FREDERICK LINDEN BSc (Adelaide) MSc (Flinders) PhD FRS

RICHARD KEITH TAPLIN BSc (LSE) MA MBE

JOHN STUART LANDRETH McCOMBIE MA MA (McMASTER) PhD

TREVOR WILLIAM ROBBINS CBE MA PhD FRS Angharad Dodds John (Emeritus) Fellow

KENNETH McNAMARA BSc (Aberdeen) PhD

**THE EMERITUS ASSOCIATE FELLOWS**

JULIAN JEFFS MA QC

WILLIAM TUDOR-JOHN MA

GEORGE FREDERICK PULMAN MA QC

JOHN NEVILLE TAIT MA

**FOUNDATION FELLOWS**

HUMPHREY BATTCOCK MA MBA (London Business School)

TADAYASI TAZAKI MA

ALWYN HEONG BA

**THE WILKINS FELLOWS**

GODFREY BRADMAN FCA

JULIAN ROBIN DARLEY MA FEng

RICHARD ALEXANDER FRISCHMANN MA

CHRISTIAN FLEMMING HEILMANN MA

JOANNA MAITLAND ROBINSON

THE LORD VERJEE MA CBE

GEORGE TIMOTHY ELLWOOD CADBURY MA  
RICHARD ANTHONY WILLIAMS MA  
JONATHAN HOWARD MA  
CHRISTOPHER JOHN BARTRAM MA FRICS  
MARIA FERRERAS WILLETTS MA (Oxon)  
ROBERT JOHN MA DLitt (Swansea)  
LOUISE ARNELL BA MA (Open) MA (Sussex)  
ROBERT MARKWICK MA MBA (Manchester)  
JAMES SIMON EDWARD ARNELL MA  
EDWARD GARY BLANKENSHIP MLitt (Columbia) AIA  
GIFFORD COOMBS AB (Harvard) MPhil  
STEPHEN MARK PEEL MA

### **THE FELLOWS COMMONER**

DAVID CHAMBERS BA (Oxon) MSc (LBS) MSc (LSE) PhD (LSE)  
JOHN GEOFFREY HICKS MA FREng  
BARRIE HUNT MA MEd (Exeter) FIMA CMath  
TIMOTHY RAWLE MA  
PETER THOMSON MA  
GABRIELLE BENNETT BA (Virginia) MA  
PENNY FURNISS MA

### **BYE-FELLOWS**

RICHARD BERENGARTEN MA  
ALEXANDER BLEISTEIN BA  
IAN BUCKLOW PhD  
EMMA CAHILL PhD  
MATTHEW CARTER MA MB BChir  
ANDREW COCKBURN MSci PhD  
ANDREJ COROVIC MA MB BChir MRCP  
GEORGE COUCH MA MB BChir  
JUSTIN DAVIES BA MA MChir FRCS  
EOIN DEVLIN BA (Dublin) MLitt (Dublin) MPhil PhD  
BUFFY ELDRIDGE-THOMAS BA  
NEDA FARAHY BSc (Edinburgh) PhD  
THOMAS HAWKER BA MA Mphil  
TIMOTHY HEARN BSc (Birmingham) PhD MRSB  
MICHAEL HOUSDEN MSci MA PhD

VICTORIA JONES MA MB MChir MRCS

LUCIA LI MA MB BChir

KATHLEEN LIDDELL BSc (Melbourne) LLB (Melbourne) MBioeth (Monash) DPhil (Oxon)

DEEPTI MARCHMENT MA MB MChir

CATHERINE MAUNDER MA

ALEX MORRIS BA MSc PhD

JILL PEARSON BA VetMC RCVS

WILLIAM SCHAFFER PhD

HENRY SHEVLIN BA BPhil (Oxon) PhD (CUNY)

LIRON SHMILOVITS LLM

SARAH SMITH MA MSc PhD

GARETH TAYLOR MA PhD

MICHAEL WAKELAM BSc (Birmingham) PhD (Birmingham)

CORINE WOOD-DONNELLY PhD

HAIXI YAN MA MB BChir

XIN-SHE YANG MSc (USTC) DPhil (Oxon)

### **VIRGINIA FELLOW**

(Thomas Jefferson Visiting Fellow from the University of Virginia)

KATH WESTON AB (Chicago) AM (Chicago) AM (Stanford) PhD (Stanford)

### **KEIO FELLOW**

NAOKI KANAYAMA BA (Knox College USA) LLB (Kyoto) LLM (Doshisha) DL (Kyoto)

### **POMONA FELLOW**

CHRISTINA NEGRITTO MSc (Buenos Aires PhD (BRI-COH)

**THE DIRECTORS OF STUDIES**

Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic	Dr D Pratt	
Architecture	Dr E So*	
Asian & Middle Eastern Studies	Dr B Steger	
Chemical Engineering	Dr K Yunus	
Classics	Dr P Millett	
Clinical Studies	Mr J Davies*	
Computer Science	Dr R Harle	
Economics	Dr A Morris	I
Education	Dr Y Liu*	
Engineering	Dr I Xu	Part IA
	Dr J Li	Part IB
	Prof W O'Neill	Part IIA and Manufacturing Engineering
	Dr M Crisp	Part IIB
English	Dr S Kennedy	Prelim to Part I and Part I
	Dr E Jones	Part II
Geography	Professor W Adams	Michaelmas
	Dr M Bravo	Lent and Easter
History	Dr D Pratt	
History of Art	Dr F Salmon*	
Human, Social & Political Sciences	Dr M Figueroa	Part II (Sociology and Social Anthropology), Part I
	Dr J Stock	Part II (Archaeology and Bio Anthropology)
	Dr H Wydra*	Part II (Politics & International Relations)
Land Economy	Professor J McCombie	
Law	Ms A Goymour	Part IA
	Mr T Hawker-Dawson	Part IB
	Mr L Shmilovits	Part II
Law (LLM and MCL)	Dr B Plant	
Linguistics	Professor A Ledgeway	
Management Studies	Professor B Lambrecht*	
Mathematics	Dr S Demoulini	
Medical Sciences	Professor N Coleman	
Modern Languages	Dr I R James	

Music	Dr A Howard*	
Natural Sciences (Biological)	Dr M Correia	Michaelmas
	Dr N Farahi and	Lent and Easter
	Dr A Holding	
	Dr A Milton	
Natural Sciences (Physical)	Professor Z Barber	
Natural Sciences (Physics)	Professor C Haniff	
Natural Sciences (Chemistry)	Dr M Housden	
Natural Sciences (Geology)	Professor N Rawlinson	
Natural Sciences (HPS)	Dr R Jennings*	
Philosophy	Dr M Tomalin	
Psychological & Behavioural Sciences	Dr A Milton	
Theology	Rev'd Dr K Eyeons	
Veterinary Medicine	Mrs J Pearson*	

\* External Director of Studies

### COLLEGE LECTURERS

Anatomy	Dr V Jones
Biochemistry (MVST)	Dr M Carter
Classics	Mr F Basso
Classics	Dr R Omitowoju
Chemistry	Dr M Housden
Economics	Dr A Morris
Engineering	Dr X-S Yang
Mathematics	Ms C Maunder
Mathematics	Dr G L Taylor
Natural Sciences	Dr N Farahi

### COLLEGE TEACHING ASSOCIATES

Cell Biology	Dr W Schafer
Engineering	Dr I Bucklow
Engineering	Dr A Cockburn
History	Dr E L Devlin
Law	Mr T Hawker-Dawson
Law	Mr L Shmilovits
Medicine	Dr G Couch
Medicine	Dr L Li

Medicine	Dr D Marchment
Medicine	Dr A Patel
Medicine	Dr H Yan
Modern and Medieval Languages	Dr C Woodford
Natural Sciences	Dr T Hearn
Natural Sciences (Mathematics)	Dr S Smith
Neurobiology	Dr E Cahill
Philosophy	Dr H Shevlin
Physiology	Dr A Corovic

## NEWS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

## Obituary



**DAVID JOHN COLMAN MA (OXON)** died on 10 September 2017, aged 68. Fellow 1972 – 1979.

His friend and colleague, Richard Coward, writes:

David's academic life began at Lord William's Grammar School, in Thame. With an Exhibition to his credit, he went from there to New College, Oxford, where he won the title of Scholar, and whence he graduated with a First in French and Italian in 1971. He always played down his knowledge of Italian but anyone who can achieve a First in the Italian prose paper must surely have had more than a passing acquaintance of the language. There was never any doubt, however, about his knowledge of the French language, for David must have been in the upper echelons of those Englishmen whose knowledge of French will rival the most educated of native French speakers. This may seem a grand statement, but that most critical of Frenchmen, Jean-Paul Dubois, colleague at Eton and friend, did not, I know, disagree. The past anterior and the imperfect subjunctive may have died on the other side of the Channel, but they were alive and well in David's mind. Yet, he was also totally versed in the modern idiom and was appreciative of the subtleties in the development of modern French.

David was appointed to a Fellowship at Downing in 1972 and he swiftly rose to the position of Director of Studies in Modern and Mediaeval Languages; he was also much in demand as a supervisor of French in the University. Amongst the colleges clamouring for his services were Sidney Sussex, Newnham, Fitzwilliam, St Catharine's, Peterhouse, Trinity Hall, Churchill, Clare, Selwyn, Girton and Lucy Cavendish. Under the supervision of Stephen Ullmann, David was also working for his D.Phil on the seventeenth century comic novel and teaching undergraduates for both parts of the Modern Languages Tripos in sixteenth and seventeenth century French literature. David became my supervisor in the seventeenth century for Part I in October 1973 and over the months that he supervised me, I came to see that he was a very special teacher: he demanded a very great deal from his supervisees, but he was always prepared to go the extra mile to ensure that we left him with a complete knowledge of the subject in hand. Not even David could bring much joy to Bossuet's *Oraisons Funèbres*, but I do recall with great pleasure his teaching of Madame de Sévigné, Madame de Lafayette, Corneille, Racine, Molière, La Fontaine, La Bruyère, La Rochefoucauld et al – and I still have the essays that had been so carefully

marked. The untimely death of Stephen Ullmann caused David to think deeply about his priorities and his future. Despite his success as a don and being offered lectureships at various provincial universities, David decided that his main love was teaching rather than research and that he wanted his future to lie in school mastering. So it was that, in 1979, he was appointed by Michael McCrum as the Head of Modern Languages at Eton. David led the department for 17 years, and then served as a schoolroom teacher for a further 10 years until he retired in 2006.

For 17 years David led a department which was consistently the most successful at Eton, both in terms of the outstanding A-Level grades achieved by boys and in terms of recruitment to A-Level. In a subject which, on the national platform, has traditionally been the preserve of the fairer sex he was head of a department which, at its zenith, saw one Etonian in three reading French to A-Level. In the days when top grades were more difficult to achieve than in the present day, over 70% of Etonians were awarded an A grade in French, and these achievements were mirrored in all languages embraced by the department. This was remarkable and due in no small measure to David's drive, determination, leadership and enthusiasm for his subject. If there are any OEs of a certain vintage reading this they will, without doubt, remember the famous *Verb Anthology* and *Bible* written by David, the latter being the last word in French grammar and a document that OEs requested be sent to them when revising for Oxford and Cambridge Finals. Lest it be imagined that David's horizons stretched no further than the borders of France, one should realise that it was under David's leadership that Italian, Arabic and Japanese were introduced to the department, and that other languages deepened the foundations upon which they had been created. If Modern Languages at Eton are still flourishing, this is due in no small measure to the high standards set by David and the momentum which he created all those years ago.

David always referred to himself as a schoolmaster, with all the connotations embraced by the word, but a more accurate statement would be to say that he was an academic; it is in that capacity that he served Eton most obviously, but he did make notable contributions in other areas. Somehow he succeeded in running a successful U15 tennis team from his study without ever seeing a court. More seriously, he was, in later years, the editor of *Fixtures*, the school's diary, and he served on numerous committees, of which the Curriculum, the Heads of Department, the Travel Grants are the ones which spring most immediately to mind. Yet, I am sure that David would not have taken me to task if I write that his academic concerns were uppermost in his mind and one cannot play down the expertise that he brought to the Modern Languages department as a result of his involvement in public examining, which is where our post-Cambridge paths crossed in 1980 at A-Level French meetings. From 1982 to 1999 David was the Chief Examiner in A-Level French for the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board; he became

Principal Examiner for OCR in the A2 Oral and Principal Examiner in the Language Essay for Cambridge International Examinations. It was no surprise, therefore, that service to the newly formed Pre-U came about as examiner of the Comprehension paper and as Principal Examiner in the Oral. These posts, together with his responsibilities that ranged from GCSE to the Open University served to keep him busy at certain times of the year during his retirement years, but I doubt that they were ever the highlights of his year. For quite some time, David had worked as a tour manager for upmarket travel companies during his school holidays, leading tours to over 50 different countries. It was his stated aim to fill in the gaps that remained, both as tour manager and as a private traveller in retirement.

So, David led a very active life and he made full and positive use of the freedom afforded to him by retirement. Unfortunately, he was diagnosed with cancer only two years into retirement when a large and ugly lump appeared on the side of his neck. There followed the usual and protracted processes of surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy until eventually it seemed that he had been given the all clear, though the primary source was never established. Two lesser brushes with cancer came about in melanoma cancer, but David remained optimistic: globe-travelling, examining and tour-guiding in Eton carried on apace until, earlier this year, the main cancer returned. Chemotherapy and immunotherapy proved to be ineffective and he eventually lost the battle for life in the ICU at Wexham Park Hospital in Slough.

A bachelor through and through, David has no dependents. His estate goes to Eton College, with the strict demand that it be used to fund the education of boys from modest or disadvantaged backgrounds. David knew that the College has a very well established programme for such boys.

## NEW FELLOWS

In the past year Downing College has welcomed two new Fellows.



**Zoe Kourtzi**, Fellow in Cognitive Neuroscience, is Professor of Experimental Psychology and a Fellow of the Alan Turing Institute. She specialises in the area of lifelong learning and brain plasticity, aiming to understand the role of learning and experience in enabling humans of all ages to translate sensory experience into complex decisions and adaptive behaviours.

**Nick Rawlinson**, Fellow in Earth Sciences, holds the BP-McKenzie Chair in Earth Sciences, and works on seismology, Earth imaging and tectonophysics. In 2018 he was elected President of the British Geophysical Association, and appointed as an Editorial board member of Proceedings of the Royal Society of London A. Nick's primary area of research is Earth imaging using seismic waves, involving the deployment of large arrays of seismic instruments to detect ground motion from multiple earthquakes. The approach used to image Earth structure from these recordings is similar, in principle, to CT scans undertaken for medical imaging. Prior to coming to Cambridge, Nick spent 12 years at the Australian National University, where



Nick Rawlinson and helpers during fieldwork in North Borneo

he undertook numerous seismic deployments across the Australian continent. This was followed by 3 years at the University of Aberdeen as Chair of Geophysics, where he helped to launch a new Masters program in geophysics, and began research into seismic hazards in southeast Asia. One of his main achievements in the last year is the deployment of a large seismic array in North Borneo, in order to detect earthquakes and image the crust and upper mantle beneath this enigmatic region of the globe. The fieldwork involved trekking up Mt. Kinabalu and into the leech-infested Maliau basin (the 'lost world' of Sabah) carrying seismic equipment, driving along muddy dirt roads through forests and palm oil plantations, and travelling by boat to nearby islands in the South China Sea.

This year's Virginia Fellow is **Professor Kath Weston**, from the Department of Anthropology.

#### NEW HONORARY FELLOW

**Caroline Wilson (1989 Law)** has been admitted as a Wilkins Fellow. Caroline was appointed Europe Director at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London in October 2016. She formerly served as HM Consul General to Hong Kong and Macao (2012-16); Minister Counsellor (Economic) British Embassy Moscow (2008-12); European Secretariat of the Cabinet Office (2006-7). Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary (2004-6); First Secretary (Antici) UK Permanent Representation to the EU; British Embassy Beijing (1996-2000).

The Master, Professor Geoffrey Grimmatt, says: "Caroline has been a most excellent ambassador for Downing and the United Kingdom since departing our quads and courts. It is an honour for the College to welcome Caroline back as an Honorary Fellow."



Caroline Wilson with the Master

## NEW FOUNDATION FELLOW



Alwyn Heong with the Master

**Alwyn Heong (1979, Medicine)** has been admitted as a Foundation Fellow. Alwyn read medicine, but made his career in international finance, starting as an investment analyst for James Capel in Hong Kong. He then worked for Fidelity for four years and left to join Capital Group in 1992, becoming Senior Vice President & Portfolio Manager, Capital Research & Management Co. and is now retired.

A resident of Australia, he is a passionate supporter of the visual arts and a collector. Owing to his substantial support for Downing's contemporary art gallery, it was named The Heong Gallery at Downing College when it was opened in February 2016.

Prior to this, in 2009, Alwyn established a fund to support Downing graduate students facing financial hardship. This belief in education had been strongly instilled in him by his father, who had struggled greatly against the odds to finish his own high school education.

## REPORTS FROM THE FELLOWS

**Bill Adams** is working on the implications of novel technologies for ideas and practice in wildlife conservation. Projects include work on the social implications of camera traps and other forms of surveillance, the significance of wildlife tracking technologies for human relations with animals, and the rise of algorithms in conservation decision-making. He is working on a book on genetic technologies and ideas about nature.

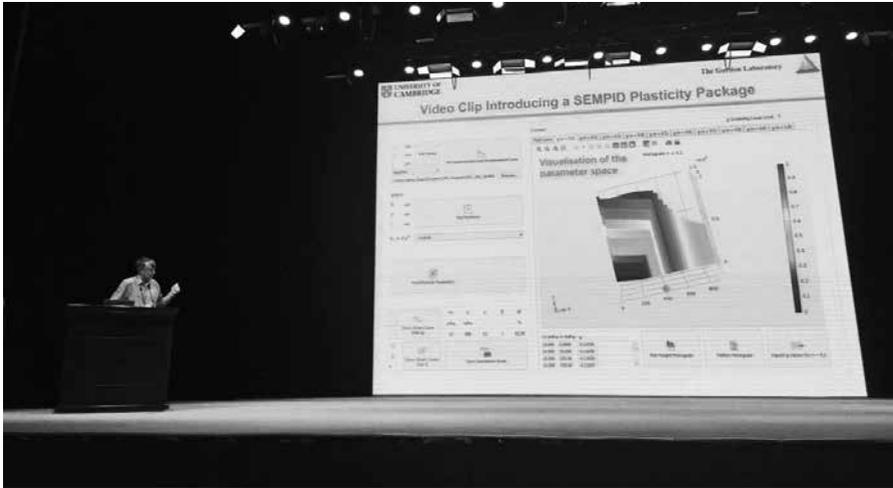
**Zoe Barber** will be stepping down this year from a 5-year stint as Deputy Head of the Materials Science & Metallurgy Department, with responsibility for teaching. This period included the Department's move from the centre of town out to West Cambridge. Her recent research has included a part in a major EU-funded grant, supporting PhD students in 10 different countries, with associated travel, and opportunities for collaborative research. She very much enjoys her work as an Associate Editor for the Elsevier journal *Thin Solid Films*.

**Edward Cavanagh**, who entered into the Fellowship of the Royal Historical Society this year, continues his research into the history of legal thought. At the same time, he has enjoyed working in College with the Director of Studies in History and the Governing Body, and in the History Faculty with the subject groups, Political Thought and Intellectual History, and World History. He has supervised for Empires and World History; History of Africa, and Overseas Expansion and British Identities, 1585-1714, as well as being a guest lecturer for the latter course. He is an MA Supervisor (on the topic of the Hong Kong transfer), and a PhD assessor (on the Colonial Office and Hong Kong history).

Edward has organized and contributed to conferences and workshops in Cambridge: *The Commonwealth Effect: New Directions in Commonwealth History*; and *Law and Empire in the Longue Durée*. He has presented a *Political Thought and Intellectual History Seminar* on 'The Crown in English Legal Thought'; a cross-faculty public lecture on 'Legal Thought and Empires'; as well as the talk, 'Mozambique, De Beers, and Re Southern Rhodesia: Personality, Jurisdiction, and War in English Courts, 1891-1919', for the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law Annual Workshop. Other presentations have included 'The Imperial Crown in the Colonial Peripheries, 1701-1901', at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, and 'Conquest for the Crown' at the British Legal History Conference. He was Guest Lecturer at Ludwig Maximilians Universität, Munich, as part of the special series, *Global Intellectual History as Political and Ethical Critique*.

Recent publications include *Infidels in English Legal Thought: Conquest, Commerce, and Slavery in the Common Law from Coke to Mansfield, 1608-1774* (*Modern Intellectual History* 15, 2018); *Charters in the Longue Durée: The Mobility and Applicability of Donative Documents in Europe and America from Edward I to Chief Justice John Marshall* (*Comparative Legal History* 5, 2017); and *The Atlantic Prehistory of Private International Law: Trading Companies of the New World and the Pursuit of Restitution in England and France, 1613-43* (*Itinerario* 41, 2017).

**Bill Clyne** has chaired two International Symposia in Downing, both with about 50 delegates. One of these was composed entirely of current and previous members of his research group (about half of them coming in from abroad), and the other was part of a quadrennial series on fine-scale mechanical testing techniques, such as nano-indentation. He also gave a Plenary talk, attended by about 5,000 delegates, at the Materials Research Society conference in Yinchuan, China.



Prof. Bill Clyne gives a plenary talk at the Materials Research Society conference in Yinchuan

**Keith Eyeons** has published his first book: *The Theology of Everything: Renaissance Man Joins the 21st Century* (Ellis and Maultby, 2017).

**David Feldman's** year, despite being punctuated by surgical procedures from which he has now, happily, recovered, was memorable for several reasons. As the year began, he was delivering a paper on *Judicial roles and responsibilities in constitutional law* at the Annual Conference of the Society of Legal Scholars at University College Dublin, and presiding over the first of an annual series of conferences on democracy at Fyli, a delightful spot in the hills near Athens from which a force commanded by Thrasybulus set off to free the Athenians from the Spartans in the fifth century BC. The star-studded conference concluded with an open-air dinner in the town square, at which David was seen to try to participate in traditional dancing, though without the traditional dress worn by the experts.

Returning to Cambridge to begin his last year of teaching before retirement from his University Professorship and College Fellowship, he became increasingly demob-happy as time went on. In research, he acted as Consultant Editor to a new edition of a classic text on legislation, *Bennion on Statutory Interpretation*, edited by Diggory Bailey and Luke Norbury (LexisNexis). He delivered public lectures on *Terror and the Constitution*, at the Sixth Bristol Law Conference; *The Age of Terror: A Legal Response*, at Bristol University; and *Democracy and Human Rights in a Changing Constitution*, at the new Forum for Human Rights and Democracy, University of Exeter (the text of the latter is available at <http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/law/research/groups/humanrightsanddemocracyforum/>

news/articles/professordavidfeldmangives.php}. In May 2018 he presided over the second annual Sir David Williams European Legal Dialogues, jointly organised by the European Public Law Organisation, the Centre for Public Law in Cambridge (of which he was Director), Wolfson College Cambridge, the University of Bordeaux, and the European Law and Government School, bringing together judges and scholars from around Europe to discuss judicial review of administrative action. Alongside these activities, he chaired the University's Research Ethics Committee, participated actively in the work of the British Academy, tried to maintain his research and writing (for which there will be more time after retirement), directed the University's Centre for Public Law, worked (not entirely successfully) as Chair of the College's Statutes Committee to draft amended Statutes and new Ordinances to provide for, *inter alia*, new complaints and disciplinary processes for the College, and attempted to do justice to a cohort of able and stimulating undergraduates at Downing and of postgraduates in the Faculty of Law.

As the year moved towards its close, he was thrilled to be elected an Emeritus Fellow with effect from 1 October 2018, and looks forward to continuing his association with the College in that new capacity.

The European Parliament has kept **Geoffrey Grimmett** busy with queries about the 2019 allocation of seats between the Member States. A number of seats will become vacant following Brexit, and some of these have been reallocated along lines dictated at least as much by realpolitik as by mathematics. Geoffrey has also been involved in scientifically serious stuff, including the study of self-avoiding walks and disordered networks. He has made a number of visits to universities worldwide, including in China, Hong Kong, and Japan, where he has made contact with enthusiastic Downing alumni. In addition to his published articles, the last year has seen the publication of the 2nd edition of his book *Probability on Graphs* (Cambridge University Press).

**Andrew Holding's** Virginia Fellowship led to a successful joint research project with Assistant Professor Michael Guertin at UVA. The collaboration resolved long-standing challenges in ChIP-Seq analysis and the research was published in *Nucleic Acids Research* at the start of 2018. The visit additionally provided an exciting new opportunity for Andrew to translate his experience in studying breast cancer to resolving the key challenge of drug resistance in Leukaemia.

**Ian James** has given visiting lectures in the Department of Philosophy in Radboud University, Nijmegen, and the Department of Theology at Vienna University. He has been an invited participant at conferences in Venice, Utrecht and Prague, and participated as a founding member of an international research consortium: SIMAGINE (*Social Imaginaries*

*between Secularity and Religion in a Globalizing World*). This is funded by the NWO (Netherlands organization for scientific research), involves the US, UK, Belgium, Austria and Netherlands, and is led out of Humanistik University, Utrecht. His recent publications include *The Universe of Things* (Cultural Critique 97, 2017) and *Jean-Luc Nancy, Oxford Bibliographies in Literary and Critical Theory*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.

**Ewan Jones** was delighted to participate in the Downing-Pomona Exchange, during which he also gave talks at UCLA and UC Berkeley. He launched a digitisation of manuscripts relating to Alfred Lord Tennyson (<https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/tennyson>), and has published several articles, including in a special issue of *Essays in Romanticism* that he edited with Julia Carlson and David Ruderman. He continues to enjoy being Director of Studies for Part II, and graduate tutor.

An extremely enjoyable event was held in College to mark the launch of **Sarah Kennedy's** book: *T. S. Eliot and the Dynamic Imagination* (Cambridge University Press, 2018).

**Priyanka Joshi**, Everitt Butterfield Research Fellow in Biochemistry at Downing, was named by Vogue magazine as one of the 25 most influential women working in Britain in 2018. Priyanka works at the cutting edge of Alzheimer's research, and has been praised for her groundbreaking work building a "library" of drug-like molecules to target irregular proteins that cause degenerative brain diseases.

**Adam Ledgeway** became a Fellow of the British Academy in July 2017 and was elected to serve as an expert panel member of Sub-panel 26: Modern Languages and Linguistics in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) for the assessment phase 2020–2021. He published a monograph: *De la latină la limbile romanice. Schimbare morfosintactică și tipologică* (Bucharest: Editura Univers Enciclopedic) and journal articles, along with 8 book chapters, and has given 21 Invited or Keynote presentations. Conference organisation has included the *12th Cambridge Italian Dialect Syntax Meeting and Workshop on Italo-Greek Dialects*, University of Cambridge, and (as co-organiser) *Substratum and Adstratum in the Development of Romance Morphosyntax*, a 1-day workshop within *Going Romance 2017*, Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest.

**Amy Milton** has been continuing her research into the mechanisms underlying memory reconsolidation and extinction, and the potential exploitation of these processes for the treatment of mental health disorders. She has published a number of articles this year, including research of relevance to drug addiction in *Neuroscience* and *Psychopharmacology*, and work relevant to anxiety disorders in *The Journal of*

*Neuroscience*. With Professor Emily Holmes of the Karolinska Institutet, she guest-edited a special issue of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* that supplemented the Royal Society Discussion Meeting, *Of Mice and Mental Health: Facilitating Dialogue between Basic and Clinical Neuroscientists* that she organised in April 2017. Amy has continued to direct studies for Natural Sciences (Biological) and Psychological & Behavioural Sciences, and was pleased to return to supervising the NST IB Neurobiologists this year. In March 2018, she was delighted to hear that her appointment as a University Lecturer had been approved to retirement age.



Ellen Nisbet and son, Edward.

**Ellen Nisbet** has been on maternity leave, following the birth of her son Edward (6 October 2017). She has, however, found it hard to stay away from science and her work on the malaria parasite. She gave an invited lecture at the Vienna Biosciences Symposium in November 2018 (*Gene Expression in a remnant chloroplast*), accompanied by her month-old son and parents (as babysitters in chief). She was awarded an MRC grant *Inhibition of RNA processing in the Plasmodium apicoplast*, which will fund inhibitor screening to help discover novel anti-malarial drugs. She was also awarded an Alborada grant, to set up a collaboration with the University of Pretoria, examining

malaria-like diseases in African cattle (yes, other animals get malaria too!). She also hosted the annual UK-wide chloroplast biology conference *Plastid Preview* at Downing before going on leave. She is looking forward to getting back to the lab and to college in September.

**John Richer**, Professor of Astrophysics and Director of Undergraduate Teaching in the Department of Physics, was awarded a 2018 Pilkington Prize in recognition of his outstanding contribution to teaching and learning. Each year this prize is awarded to 12 members of University staff who have achieved excellence in the field of teaching

Together with Angelika Koch, **Brigitte Steger** published *Cool Japanese Men: Studying New Masculinities at Cambridge* (Lit, December 2017), a collection of undergraduate and graduate students' works in Japanese Studies.

**Jay Stock**, together with Manuel Will of Gonville and Caius, have published a wide-ranging new study of fossils spanning over four million years. The new study suggests that stature and body mass advanced at different speeds during the evolution of hominins – the ancestral lineage of which homo sapiens alone still exist.

**Graham Virgo's** appointment as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education was renewed for three more years in October. He has also been appointed as Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor from July 2018. As PVC for Education he has been engaged in various University projects, some of which have received significant media attention, including the launch of *Breaking the Silence*, responding to sexual misconduct; developing and implementing a strategy for the innovative use of education space; a review of examinations and assessment; implementation of a digital education strategy; development of a transition year programme and preparation for the launch of a student support development campaign. He has also had the 3rd edition of *Principles of Equity and Trusts* published.

**Richard Berengarten** is a Bye-Fellow of the College and supports students through teaching sessions on aspects of writing and study skills. He is a poet, and was awarded the *Cambridge Xu Zhimo Silver Award 2017 for a European poet* at the Xu Zhimo Poetry Festival, King's College, Cambridge, July 2017. His books include the widely praised *Changing* (Shearsman Books, 2016), which is a series of 450 poems based on the ancient Chinese classic, the *I Ching*. Also: *Richard Berengarten: A Portrait in Inter-Views* (eds. Paschalis Nikolaou and John Z. Dillon; Shearsman Books, 2017); *Ten Poems from Changing*, bilingual English-Chinese edition (trs. Chen Shangzhen and Xiao Xiaojun, Cambridge Rivers Press, 2018); and a critical book on his writings, *The Companion to Richard Berengarten* (eds. Norman Jope, Paul S. Derrick and Catherine Byfield; Shearsman Books, 2016). In 2018 he published 'The Death of Children' in the anthology *Poems for Grenfell Tower* (ed. Rip Bulkeley, Onslaught Press).

*Nu(e) no. 65* is a special issue of the French literary magazine, edited by Béatrice Bonhomme, and devoted entirely to Richard's writings, including translations of poems, essays on his poems, an interview, and art work. The *Albero Project*, launched in Italy in September 2017, is an international ecology and poetry project, based on Richard's long poem *Tree*, including translations into ten languages (Chinese, French, Greek, German, Hebrew, Irish Gaelic, Italian, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish), statements on poetics, art, photographs and a video (web-based publication in the on-line Italian-English journal, *Margutte*).

In 2017 Richard was keynote speaker at the conference *One World: logical and ethical implications of holism*; and he participated in several other major international literary events: the Smederevo Poetry Autumn, Serbia; the Xichang Qionghai Silk Road Poetry Festival, Sichuan, China; and the Tbilisi Third International Festival of Literature, Georgia.

**REPORTS ON SPORTS CLUBS****Badminton**

*Captain: Vatsal Raina*

At the end of the 2016-17 academic year, the badminton first team was promoted from Division 3 to Division 2. In the Michaelmas term, Downing came second place in Division 2, which was sufficient to promote Downing to Division 1. After a tense final match of the year, Downing maintained its position in Division 1, with a secure place in the top 5 badminton teams in the Cambridge University badminton league.

The Downing badminton first team has seen some of the greatest improvement in performance in the history of Downing badminton. Within a single year, the first team was able to rise through the ranks from a mediocre third division team to one of the elite first division teams. This remarkable feat was no fluke, but the natural result of exceptional commitment and dedication of the team members. The commitment is evident from the consistent turn-out in the four training sessions every week throughout the year. In the following academic year, Downing badminton expects to out-shine this year's performance!

**Basketball**

*Captain: Victor Wei*

This year the basketball team have finished as division champions in both Michaelmas and Lent terms and will be automatically promoted in the next academic year. Equipped with new magenta jerseys and a fresh line up of all-stars, the basketball team truly looked like a college dream team this year. With a stunning win record of 70% of scheduled league matches throughout the season, Downing defeated notable opposition including St. Catharine's, Homerton and Wolfson. This success has certainly not been without cost, with the whole team deserving recognition of the blood, sweat and tears (maybe not tears) given on and off the court. From learning offensive and defensive strategies, to scouting the play-style of opposing teams, the wins this season have been achieved through hard-work and pushing the limits in training.

**Cricket**

*Captain: James Cole*

Played 3 Lost 3

Unfortunately, Downing cricket endured a tough season having been drawn in a Cuppers group with Fitz and Queens, two of the strongest teams in the competition. Despite also struggling to raise a full XI, Downing fought valiantly and for large portions of all three matches were competitive. Special mentions must go to stalwarts of the team,

wicketkeeper Patrick Wernham and all-rounders, Aayush Sonthalia and Simon Bennett who graduate this year.

### **Men's Football**

*Captain: Adam Melling*

The 1st XI finished mid-table in Division 1 this season, sadly going out to a strong Sidney Sussex side in the first round of Cuppers.

With many strong footballers graduating from the College last season, rebuilding was the priority this year for the 1st XI. Dealt a bad hand with our early fixtures, Downing showed characteristically great motivation to grind out crucial results in the Lent term and secure a place in the top-flight for next season. Following a solid fresher intake in the season just gone, Downing are in a great position for next season's campaign.

### **Women's Football**

*Captain: Jane Wright*

Downing Women's Football reached the quarterfinals of Cuppers, and had a mid-table finish in the Division 3 League. The team had a strong intake this year, with not only first-year undergraduates and postgraduates joining, but also second-year undergraduates entering the fray. The highlight of the season was an 11-0 win against Newnham where veteran player Emma Davies scored her first goal for Downing in her 4th year. It was great to see many members committing to training throughout the year too, so hopefully the team are in a strong position going to next season. Overall there were some great wins and unfortunate, last-minute losses but it has been a fun season for all!

### **Men's Hockey**

*Captains: Simon Bennett and Will Byrd*

Michaelmas League – Division 1 Champions

Lent League – Division 1 3rd Place

Men's Cuppers – Semi-Finals – Lost 4-1 to Catz

Mixed Cuppers – Semi-Finals – Lost on penalties to Trinity/Fitz

College Supercuppers – Cancelled due to weather

This year has been an enormously successful for DCHC's Men. Despite a mass exodus of graduating players at the end of last season, we have not only matched, but exceeded our normal high standards this season, thanks both to the quality of our fresher intake and the incredible commitment levels of our talented, but small squad. Our twin losses in Cuppers semi-finals were slightly disappointing, but we were up against sides full of Blues; a more significant blow was the postponement of Supercuppers – the annual fixture between Cambridge and Oxford's respective champion colleges – due to the now

infamous Beast from the East, but we retain hope of rescheduling. Player of the Year was closely fought between freshers Matthew Moore and Ally Macdonald, with the former narrowly winning out.

### **Women's Hockey**

*Captains: Harriet Jackson and Gina Marsh*

Women's Hockey has had a somewhat frustrating season, as demotion last year has left us surrounded with less enthusiastic teams. Week after week our opponents have conceded to us, so although this has left us reasonably high in the league table, we have played little hockey. We reached the quarter-finals of women's cuppers, but lost out to a strong Trinity-Fitz side who will probably go on to win. But all in all it has been a great year with some wonderful women- thank you all!

### **Mixed Lacrosse**

*Captain: Sacha Hopkins-Powell*

Michaelmas – 4th in league

Lent – 1st in league

Cuppers – we drew 1 match and lost the other 3 and did not qualify to go through to the quarter finals

The Downing Ducks had an enthusiastic start to the year with lots of fresh faces coming in. Despite winning the first few matches and stealing some balls from other teams (upping our ball count to 3 whole lacrosse balls!), we had an unlucky streak towards the end of Michaelmas and finished 4th in our league. In Lent term we came back fighting and won every single match played throughout the term, fighting through snow, rain and sunshine, sometimes all at the same time. The Ducks gained some new stash and finished 1st in our league, scoring more than 10 points above the next team. Cuppers was a hard-fought battle against teams in much higher leagues than us, including the eventual winners themselves. In particular, we were very proud of drawing against a first league team. The Downing Ducks didn't give up and morale remained high throughout, despite our losses!

### **Mixed Netball**

*Captain: Jeremy Manger*

The Mixed Netball 1st team this year had a mid-table finish in Division 1 in Michaelmas League and was demoted to Division 2 following the Lent League.

This year has undoubtedly been a tough one for the Mixed Netball 1st team, but I believe it is one that has resulted in us being in a strong position going into next year. With some success in the Michaelmas League, we laid the foundations for a good future,

and put in performances which showed that we are a team capable of performing at the highest level. While the Lent League was much tougher, with various teams having really upped their game from the previous term, this gave us an opportunity to test ourselves against strong opposition, which has been invaluable to our improvement as a team. I fully expect to see us put in a strong performance in Cuppers at the start of next term, and I believe that the team will continue to flourish in the next year.

## **Rowing**

*Captain of Boats Alex Fellows, Men's Captain Matthew French,*

*Women's Captain Stephen Harris*

Significant Results:

Lent Bumps - M1 3rd, W1 2nd, M2 6th Second Crew, W2 10th Second Crew,  
M3 8th Third Crew

May Bumps - M1 6th, W1 4th, M2 4th Second Crew, W2 5th Second Crew,  
M3 11th Third Crew

Overall, the year for DCBC has been positive. With a newly refurbished boathouse and introduction of the Cambridge Rowing Tank at the beginning of 2018, the facilities available for all members have been outstanding. The novice intake back in Michaelmas 2017 was good with several crews competing and achieving strong results in the end-of-term Fairbairns Cup head race. This large influx of members also carried into the training camp in January which was held in Cambridge to make use of the newly finished facilities. With over 60 students attending the camp, there was a significant presence of DCBC on the Cam and some valuable training took place to kick-start Lent term. M1 and W1 had been training right from the off in Michaelmas and had recorded some great race wins both on and off the Cam come Lent bumps. However, in an unseen series of events, the weather took a turn for the worse leading to much snow and ice and temperatures in the wind nearing -10C. This resulted in much of the bumps being cancelled which hasn't happened since the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in 2001. A great effort from rowers all across Cambridge to clear the tow-path of ice meant racing could occur on the final two days with DCBC crews ending the campaign in strong positions for next year.

After Lent bumps, the first boats competed in their Head of the River races on the Thames, both recording good times and finishing well above some strong crews. This led into the Easter break and subsequently into the final term of the year. May term saw significantly better weather than Lents which improved the quality of training and also enabled crews to train in the evenings while it was still light. Many hours on the river all culminated in 5 crews entering into the May Bumps which consisted of a mixed bag of

results with strong performances from W1, W2 and M3 who went up 1, up 1 and up 2 respectively and slightly disappointing results from M1 and M2 who went down 1 and down 3 respectively. Despite this, all of our crews should be proud of their racing and should be looking on to next year and climbing further up the rankings.

Feroces Ad Mortem.

## **Rugby**

*Captain: Connor Newell*

Downing rugby started the year in Division 1 of the newly reformed league structure. There are now 5 leagues of 4 teams with 3 lots of relegation/promotion across Michaelmas and Lent. Downing finished 2nd in the first league of the year with strong performances against Robinson and Caius. Unfortunately in the second round of league games we were relegated to Division 2, mainly due to unfortunate timing of other events crippling our squad numbers. However we bounced back, winning division 2 with ease, beating Emma and Churchill ensuring a place in division 1 for next October.

The Cuppers campaign had promise given the numerous blues, LX and U20s players in the squad. However our first round game against Churchill was one to forget. The absence of our key forwards took its toll as we were bullied into submission. This meant Downing dropped into the Plate competition. In the semi final we defeated Trinity by 55-5 despite only having 13 men. Similarly the 90-12 semi final win over the Selwyn Peterhouse combined team showed we should really have been in the top tier cup competition. However, we enjoyed these big wins and it set up a final against Homerton. Homerton provided more resistance than the other two sides faced in the Plate, but a dominant physical showing from the pack and some clever tactical kicking in miserable conditions for May ensured Downing won by 24-10. The rugby club are looking to build on our success next year, increasing participation from members in college and hopefully playing in the latter Cuppers final come May 2019

## **Squash**

*Captain: David Sutcliffe*

Despite the vast majority of our league games being cancelled this year it has still been a good year for squash at Downing. Due to the lack of competitive games the focus has primarily been on training and the improvement of technique. This has largely consisted of the two training sessions we run every week with one being dedicated to beginners and the other being dedicated to more advanced players. Cuppers was off to a good start with us knocking out Queens with a score of 3-2. Unfortunately, the success was short lived as Jesus knocked us out with a score of 3-1.

## **Table Tennis**

*Captain: Jamie Saleh*

Finished the league in a middle placement. Cuppers, we are through to the quarter finals which are being held in Easter term.

The team was thrown in at the deep end from the first. Fresh off the back of a promotion to Division 1 the 1st team was pitted against Pembroke, a team that consists wholly of university-level players. Although we lost that match and the next, results were promising. We started winning more games, then matches and by the end we were cleanly defeating teams: a testament to the time and effort the players have put into improving over the past two terms. Players from both our 1st and 2nd team have pooled together to enter this year's Cuppers and there's been nothing but good news so far with the combined team proceeding to the quarter-finals. All in all, a fabulous year for Downing TT and we look forward to building on this year's success in the next.

## **Men's Tennis**

*Captain: Malik Majeed*

In the Michaelmas league, we had two teams. Our first team finished second in Division 2 (of six), while our second team won Division 5.

In Lent, we had one team of six in Cuppers. We managed to reach the quarter-finals, which was a decent result – but we hope to go further next year.

Overall, we had a mixed year. In the Michaelmas league, we had two teams of four. When we did play, we ground out some good results, including a 6-0 win against Jesus II from our II's, as well as a quarter-final finish in Cuppers (Lent). Where we struggled was often in making up the numbers – so I hope, as a club, we can reach out to more of Downing next year. That said, I'd like to congratulate everyone who played this year for some great performances!

## **Ultimate Frisbee**

*Captains: Will Beddow and Tiger Yotsawat*

DCU saw a promising start to the season with a very successful recruitment period in freshers week as compared to the previous year. The freshers, many of whom were completely new to the sport, picked it up rapidly and DCU now has confident handlers and athletic cutters ready to carry the team forwards in the next season.

With an impressive record of 5 wins and 1 loss in the Michaelmas term, DCU, led by Aimeric Malter and Beth Boucher, qualified for Division 1. The teams had to face harsh winter conditions in Lent. DCU – with Will Beddow and Tiger Yotsawat now at the helm – had to play one match in thick snow and some were even cancelled. Going up against the Division 1 teams also proved to be challenging for us especially with limited chances to run practices due to unfavourable weather conditions. Special mention to Nick Wan for

always being there for trainings! We ended up 5th out of 6 teams at the end of the Lent term. Our teamwork improved in the Easter term. Numbers suffered due to exams, but we were saved by Panna Chauhan and Ally Macdonald who were valuable new additions to the team.

The Best Fresher Award went to Ben Yass for his great knowledge of the game and well-rounded skills at both handling and cutting. It will exciting to see how DCU performs in the next season with these capable freshers as building blocks of the team.

### **GRIFFINS ENDOWMENT FUND**

The fund exists to enable Downing's talented sports players to participate at University level by providing support for kit, travel expenses and training costs. To support the fund by direct debit please visit <https://www.downingcambridge.com/make-a-donation-online> to download a donation form. Please return the completed form to the address given. Alternatively, one-off donations may be made online at <https://www.downingcambridge.com/make-a-donation-online> – in the field entitled Designation, please enter 'Other' and use the space provided to enter 'The Griffins Fund' – or cheques made out to 'Downing College' and marked for the Griffins Fund can be sent to the Development Office, Downing College, Cambridge CB2 1DQ. For further information, please contact Claire Varley ([cav10@dow.cam.ac.uk](mailto:cav10@dow.cam.ac.uk)).

## REPORTS ON SOCIETIES

**The Austyn Mair Engineering Society***Jane Wright*

The Society began the year with the annual Freshers' Welcome event, with presentations from across the membership. Undergraduates discussed their summer placements, postgraduates presented their research, Manufacturing Engineering Tripos (MET) students gave an insight into their course, and Prof. Bill O'Neil provided an introduction to the Institute for Manufacturing (IfM) photonic activities. It was a lovely event, as those who presented were clearly enjoying sharing their work with their peers. Thanks to Prof. Bill O'Neil for helping provide the highlight of the year: the tour of the IfM laser labs. Engineering (and medical) students from all disciplines were in attendance, as well as alumni Michael Truby and Luke Smith, and Dr Ian Bucklow. Looking ahead to Easter Term will be the Annual Dinner which will surely be as great as ever!

**The Blake Society***Patrick Wernham*

One of the charms of the Blake Society is that, whilst its broad focus (the arts and humanities) remains the same, there is much scope for taking the Society in new directions. To that end, this year saw the Society's attention turn towards writing, journalism and arts criticism. In March, in the Blake's most popular event for a good few years, the Guardian's chief film critic, Peter Bradshaw, gave a talk about how he got into film writing, the state of the industry and why we should all be a bit less snobby about superhero movies. Similarly, back in October we played host to journalist and writer Dorian Lynskey. As a Downing alumnus, it was also a pleasure to hear about Dorian's time here as a student and indeed note how little seems to have changed.

The Blake Society has continued to work closely with the Heong Gallery, where a number of our other events have been held. Coinciding with the 2017 exhibition 'When the Heavens Meet the Earth', we set up a 'photo booth' event, where participants did their best with the available costumes and props to imitate the photography on display. More recently, we wrote and designed letters of solidarity for prisoners of conscience across the world, in keeping with the political nature of Elisabeth Frink's work from the autumn exhibition.

This year's annual dinner was a great success, even if the theme of 'Spring' wasn't enough to put off the snow that meant our patron, Sir Quentin Blake, was unable to join us. Regardless, he wrote us a very nice message and we are sure he will be happier than anyone to hear what fine health the Society is in.

## **The Brammer Geographical Society**

*Simone Pang*

The Brammer Geographical Society had a quieter start to this academic year due to an unfortunate inability to host a fieldtrip, largely due to the busy schedules of our society members and the cold winter with which we were faced. Thankfully though, our activities within college have been particularly vibrant, with a small Christmas formal hosted in Michaelmas giving us a brilliant opportunity to welcome our three new geographers to the Society and our particular knack for games and quizzes. Our new social secretary, Lauren Donaldson, has also been busy establishing a new Instagram account for the multiple fieldtrips, individual pieces of work and successes that our alumni and current students have embarked upon. If you would like to check it out, please follow us at @instabram\_geog to keep up to date with our daily adventures as a Society!

We also hosted our annual Society dinner in Downing's West Lodge to welcome back our alumni and keep in touch with their achievements, whilst providing our current students with great insight into the power of Geography and its ability to take you down varied paths in life. Helping us in this vein, Tom Chudley, agreed to be our guest speaker to discuss his current PhD research with us, and what the experience of undertaking a PhD in Geography at Cambridge is like.

I hope that our many alumni, wherever they may be, do stay in touch as our Society continues to mature and develop. We look forward to seeing some of you very soon!

## **Chapel Choir**

*Louisa Denby, Assisting Organist*

Despite the best efforts of several members of the Chapel Choir, who narrowly avoided being arrested outside a bar in Lithuania at half-past two in the morning, we returned safely from our summer tour, full of enthusiasm for the new academic year.

We were delighted to welcome our new undergraduate Organ Scholar (Chris Hamilton) in time for the alumni Evensong in September who, having joined us on tour in July, was relieved to finally revert to being called by his real name, having been known for some time as 'JOSÉ' (Junior Organ Scholar Elect). During the Michaelmas term we were inspired by a visit from Dr Ralph Allwood MBE, former Director of Music at Eton College, who worked with us on some of our current repertoire and also conducted a service of choral compline. The end of term saw us take Advent 'on tour' once again, this time to St Pancras Parish Church, where the logistical situation involving the distance between the Choir and organ was masterfully overcome by Chris, although not without plenty of running around in his socks.

The Lent term was even more exciting, with a joint Evensong sung in Downing with Robinson College Chapel Choir (the building is still shaking) and a rendition of Haydn's

*Little Organ Mass* accompanied by string ensemble – thanks are due to second-year music student Anahita Falaki for hunting down the string players. In March we ventured to Norwich Cathedral to sing Evensong, with repertoire including Howells' magical *Collegium Regale* setting of the Canticles and Leighton's atmospheric *Drop, drop slow tears*. It was the weekend of The Snow, when luckily the only trains running just happened to be between Cambridge and Norwich. Those of us who weren't so lucky on the way back, however, now have an impressively advanced knowledge of the geography of Eastern Norfolk...

In the Easter term at the annual Commemoration of Benefactors service, the building resounded to Stanford's joyous *Te Deum in C*, complementing his C-major Evening Canticles and Communion Service which we sang earlier in the year. The May Week concert provided an opportunity to add to our tour fundraising – in mid-July we crossed the Atlantic to explore parts of the US and Canada.

We are very sad indeed to say goodbye to Adam Begley, Postgraduate Organ Scholar, and to Dr Christopher Robinson CVO CBE. The latter has acted as mentor to the Choir and organists over the past three years. Words alone cannot come anywhere near expressing how lucky we have been to have had his input in matters musical during this time and how much we have all benefited from his enormous common sense, generosity of spirit, and superlative experience and musicianship. He will be an *extraordinarily* hard act to follow.

### **The Cranworth Law Society**

*Majid Mohamed*

Over the past year Downing's Law Society has hosted a range of events, including talks, dinners and the annual trip to London. The London trip was a real highlight in the Cranworth calendar this year, with all of the first-years being taken to meet Downing alumni from various strands of the legal profession: we visited XXIV Old Buildings, Lord Lloyd-Jones at the Supreme Court and were hosted for dinner by Norton Rose Fulbright. Cranworth has had an excellent year in mooting as well, winning the annual Downing v Magdalene Moot for the 4th time on the trot – we're looking forward to next year's special event to mark the 50th occasion of the moot!

### **The Danby Society**

*Anran Chen*

The Society is for everyone interested in Natural Sciences, Computer Science, Mathematics or Engineering. We always strive to offer social and intellectual enrichment to the College community. During 2017-2018, we organised a garden party for everyone to enjoy the summertime, a freshers' night in the Michaelmas Term to welcome our members back

- old and new, and an exciting mathematics, science and engineering quiz with the Downing Fellows in the Butterfield Bar.

Talks given by some of the most intelligent people in science, mathematics and engineering are always the highlights of the Society. These covered a wide range of science and technology and were greatly enjoyed, together with after-talk dinners with the speakers. The year began with Dr Helen Lee, an entrepreneur in the diagnostics industry, followed by *The Film Industry*, presented by the President of the Society, Prof. Zoe Barber, and then Prof. Alfonso Martinez-Arias discussed our relationship with data. Prof. Jim Haseloff discussed a more open environment for synthetic biology and the year finished with a talk given by the renowned historian of science, Prof. Hasok Chang. It has been a year enjoyed by our members.

## **Dramatic Society**

### *Kieran Tam*

The Downing Dramatic Society has had a fantastic run this year, hosting seven productions at the Howard Theatre as well as a variety of other events at the Heong Gallery and the Corpus Playroom. The Committee's aim for 2017/2018 was to promote diversity in the theatre scene here at Downing College and in Cambridge. Our first all-BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) production was directed by Downing's own Sneha Sen (2nd Year, Linguistics) and brought over twenty students from a variety of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds together in a new take on Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* at the Howard Theatre in Michaelmas term. Meanwhile, we also collaborated with Cambridge societies to host and fund foreign language productions such as *Love Letters* by Shan Chengju in Chinese at the Howard Theatre in Michaelmas term and *Rêver Peut Être* by Jean-Claude Grumberg at the Corpus Playroom in Lent term.

The annual Downing Freshers' Production of *Whodunnit* by Anthony Shaffer at the Howard Theatre in Lent term was a great success, bringing through a new generation of Downing thespians, many of whom will sit on the new Downing Dramatic Society Committee for 2018/2019. This year also saw the fourth run of *A Festival of New Writing*, which was founded in 2015 by Stephen Bennett, the Senior Treasurer of the Downing Dramatic Society at the time and is now one of the biggest student-run new writing events in Cambridge. Organised by the New Writing Officers, Sophie Ball (2nd Year, Modern and Medieval Languages) and Nick Chevis (2nd Year, History) and supported by the John Family in memory of Angharad Dodds John, the Festival showcased nine independent student-run plays at the Howard Theatre which were then judged by a panel, which included Downing alumnus Alex Lass (2008). The panel and audience discussions at the end of each night allowed writers, judges and the audience to reflect on these new works and gave the writers, in particular, the opportunity to learn and

ultimately improve their work. Ultimately, the Downing Dramatic Society hopes to provide budding actors, writers, designers and the like with the opportunity get involved in the theatre scene regardless of experience and to learn from their experiences.

The incoming Committee for 2018/2019, led by Joe Hilton (1st Year, Natural Sciences), looks forward to continuing the Downing Dramatic Society's work and hopes to involve even more of Downing's students over the course of the next year.

## **Jazz Band**

### ***Pranetr Pattabhiraman***

With the Jazz Band's striking performance at last year's Downing May Ball, the new academic year began with a surge of enthusiasm to continue the band's success. A strong performance at the freshers' Casino Night resulted in an influx of new students to replace some of the key members that had graduated. The focus of the band shifted with a brand-new set list and the introduction of a singer, fresher Clodagh Kelsh, the first in the history of the band. Many rehearsals and a few gigs, such as the Queens' Jamnesty, led up to a big performance at our very own Downing Bar. Acclaimed as the most active event in the history of DCMS's social media presence, many students from across all colleges were well entertained. The Jazz Band made their annual appearance at MCR and JCR superformals, as well as at the Griffins and DCMS garden party. The members continue rehearsing and expanding their set list in preparation for Downing and perhaps other May Balls next year.

Thanks are due to the current committee; Pranetr Pattabhiraman, Ben Stephenson, Ali Hyde and Dan Duffy for their efforts this year. The band is always looking to having new members and potential gigs. If you are interested in joining, hiring or supporting Downing College Jazz Band, please contact [pp422@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pp422@cam.ac.uk)

## **The Maitland History Society**

### ***Deborah Herzberg***

The Society has had another busy and successful year. Of note was the alumni event held in November, with a very popular and politically relevant talk given by Professor Gary Gerstle on the rise and fall of America's neo-liberal order. It was followed by three talks which, as last year, were well attended by students of Downing and the University. In Michaelmas, Dr Bronwen Everill spoke on *Ethical Capitalism in the Age of Abolition*, examining the daily purchasing habits of concerned anti-slavery activists. This was followed in Lent by a paper from Dr Paul Warde entitled *The Environment: a History of a Concept*, providing new insight into contemporary concerns. Professor Ulinka Rublack concluded Maitland's calendar with a talk on *Feathers in Early Modern European Hats*, which proved fascinating for anyone interested in the history of fashion, material culture and globalisation.

The Society also went on its much-anticipated field trip to Audley End House, which was a great opportunity for all to get some fresh air and visit a historical site outside of Cambridge. Finally, the Annual Dinner was a great success, with very creative costume choices and Nick Chevis was awarded the Dr David Pratt Prize for best costume for his representation of 'coffee house culture'.

Deborah Herzberg now stands down as president to be replaced by Nick Chevis, with Olivia Neave and Ewan Ferguson elected as Secretaries.

### **Downing College Music Society**

#### *Anahita Falaki*

With great thanks to the newest intake of enthusiastic undergraduates, the musical activity in Downing has increased greatly this past year. The Music Society has encouraged a wide variety of performances. The annual Freshers' Recital in the Master's Lodge highlighted the talents of several new students and was very well attended as usual. Dr Marcus Tomalin and Dr Ed Cavanagh performed a recital of Spanish Music together in the Chapel for a relaxed end to the Michaelmas term. DCMS has hosted several musical bar nights, introducing a wide variety of acts to the College, including our own Downing College Jazz Band.

Lent term was particularly exciting for DCMS, hosting a range of different performances. Duo Amythis, a professional guitar duo came to perform in the Chapel with thanks to Dr Ed Cavanagh. Our very own Master even got involved in the music making of the term, narrating for a performance of Walton's *Façade* in the Howard Theatre as part of the St Valentine's Day Concert. Lent term saw the revival of the Pembroke, Peterhouse, and Downing Orchestra, with thanks to Kieran Agg representing Downing in their committee. They performed in the final week of term at St Columba's Church to an appreciative audience. DCMS had an exciting Easter term, with an array of performances ranging from jazz, to baroque violin and harpsichord, to the choral May Week concert, kindly performed by the Chapel Choir.

DCMS have been fortunate to work with the Heong Gallery, putting on innovative performances as part of the *Arts After Dark* series with each exhibition this academic year. The year began with a hugely successful performance in the Heong Gallery of new works by current female undergraduate composers at the University, including Downing's very own Kethaki Prathivadi-Bhayankaram. Jazz sextet, *Subzero Porcupine*, were hosted at the beginning of the Easter term.

### **The Philiminality Society**

#### *James Dickinson*

Philiminality Cambridge has had an exciting year and has managed to fulfill its target of providing a platform for cross-cultural and interdisciplinary philosophy. The undeniable

highlight of the year was our panel discussion on *Aphorisms and Fragments*, which involved speakers from four different faculties, covering thinkers from three continents, and 2500 years. The event gave the opportunity to have Eastern, Continental, and Ancient Philosophy put on an equal playing field with the analytic philosophy so prevalent in Cambridge today.

Unfortunately, due to last minute speaker drop-outs and in solidarity with the UCU strikes, two of our events had to be cancelled. Nevertheless, we are excited about the things coming up for the Society itself, as well as the ripples it is making in Cambridge, in both the Decolonise Cambridge movement and the broadening of the syllabus of the Philosophy Tripos.

To stay updated with Philiminality Cambridge or to hear recordings of past events, visit our Facebook page at [facebook.com/philiminalitycambridge/](https://facebook.com/philiminalitycambridge/)

### **Downing College Poetry Society**

#### *Alistair Hyde*

The Poetry Society was founded informally in Michaelmas of 2016, becoming an official society at the start of this academic year. Regular meetings where poetry is read on a particular theme have continued to take place, with attendance growing as the Society has welcomed input from members of the University outside Downing. These meetings are set to continue throughout Easter term. The Heong Gallery has been an excellent space for the Society to use in the *Arts After Dark* series, holding poetry-reading performances in both Michaelmas and Lent terms, that reflected the exhibitions that were currently on show. We very much enjoyed reading the poetry inspired by the exhibition of *The Court of Redonda*, where we tried to give the figures in the paintings a voice through the medium of poetry.

### **The Whitby Society**

#### *Jonathan Chu*

Whitby, Downing College's Medical and Veterinary Society, has enjoyed another successful year in the academic year of 2017-2018.

The first landmark, at the start of the year, was the arrival of the Matriculated class of 2017, who were quickly integrated with the other undergraduates at the local bowling alley. October also saw the return of the Whitby Cocktails evening, rebranded as *Whitby Wine & Unwind*, and attended by students from all year groups, many of whom said it was 'the best one yet' due to the committee's own original mocktail creations proving extremely popular. Michaelmas was our busiest term with a talk by Dr Thakamma Ajithkumar, a Paediatric Oncologist at Addenbrookes, followed by another talk in collaboration with the Cambridge University Equine Veterinary Society (CUEVS), on

emergency equine care and lastly a talk by current 6th years regarding their experience and advice for electives.

During Lent term, the Whitby Welfare Officers worked hard to produce some fantastic brownies for the entire Downing MedVet population and Whitby had another collaboration with CUEVS, this time discussing the work of farriers. Additionally, two Whitby alumni returned to deliver academic talks for our Lent term programme. The first was ACCS CT1 (Anaesthetics), Dr George Couch, who gave a wildly entertaining and refreshingly insightful account of his experiences as a foundation year's doctor and his transition from medical school. Current members were then treated to another brilliant talk by alumna Dr Cecilia Brassett, a university clinical anatomist, the MVST Anatomy course organiser and Director of Studies at Magdalene College, on her fascinating career path. Lastly, the 3rd year Part II students held an information evening for the 2nd years, advising them on their Part II choices.

The Annual Dinner was preceded by a talk by Mr Justin Davies, a Consultant Colorectal Surgeon and Director of Digestive Diseases at Addenbrookes Hospital, on social media and surgery. After the dinner, the results of the new academic year's committee elections were announced and I, the current president handed over to the new President and current Secretary Khalil Saadeh at the grave of Sir Busick Harwood, Downing's first Professor of Medicine (as many of you will remember, a Whitby tradition). Finally, we are also saying congratulations and farewell to the graduating class of 2018, who will be going on to their posts as qualified doctors. We wish them the best of luck.



Dyah Pritadrajiti – “Across the quadrangle” – Commended Downing Alumni Photographic Competition



Michael Siu – “Sea of thoughts” – Commended Downing Alumni Photographic Competition



Michael Siu - "Prudence" - Commended Downing Alumni Photographic Competition

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