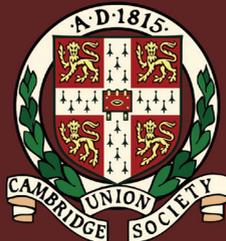


BILL NIGHY  
 JAMES BLUNT  
 CATLIN JENNER  
 RUSSELL BRAND  
 ANDY BURNHAM  
 EMMA THOMPSON  
 NANA AKUFO-ADDO  
 BORIS JOHNSON  
 HELEN CLARK  
 SIGOURNEY WEAVER  
 DIANA RIGG  
 STANLEY TUCCI  
 VIVIENNE WESTWOOD  
 MUNROE BERGDORF  
 RONALD REAGAN  
 THE DALAI LAMA  
 BERNIE SANDERS  
 JOHN McDONNELL  
 KEVIN RUDD  
 HESTON BLUMENTHAL  
 VINCE CABLE  
 ROBERT DOWNEY JR  
 MARGARET THATCHER  
 SIR IAN MCKELLEN  
 DAME JUDY DENCH  
 CLINT EASTWOOD  
 SIR KEN OLISA  
 JOSH RADNOR  
 DAVID LAMMY  
 WINSTON CHURCHILL  
 BORIS BECKER  
 STEPHEN HAWKING  
 JEREMY CORBYN  
 MARY BERRY  
 JACOB REES-MOGG  
 ANTONIO SCALIA  
 PRINCE CHARLES  
 CORNELIA PARKER  
 SIMON SCHAMA  
 STEPHEN FRY



# WELCOME TO THE UNION

**W**elcome to Cambridge – and welcome to the Cambridge Union. Whether you're here as a fresher or as a postgrad, the next few years promise to be some of the most amazing of your life.

I sincerely hope that the Union will be part of that. For over two hundred years, we have been a hub for students to meet, socialise, and discuss the issues that matter to them – in the company of some of the world's most influential figures. The likes of Winston Churchill, Presidents Reagan and Roosevelt, and even the Queen of Baking herself, Mary Berry, have graced our Chamber.

Every Thursday night during term, the Union hosts its world-famous debates, offering students the opportunity to see the great, the good, and the despicable discuss the issues that matter – and to actively challenge their views. Further, as a member of the largest student society in Cambridge, you have access to a brilliant central student bar and unrivalled facilities. Social events from quiz nights to yoga provide the best possible way to meet people from outside your own college – with all new members entered into a ballot for free tickets to the University's only Freshers' Ball!

In my three years at the University, I have listened to a performance from James Blunt, watched a comedy routine delivered by Stephen Merchant and heard Stephen Hawking deliver his final public lecture – alongside attending a score of other talks and events. It has given me experiences which I will never forget, and which you simply cannot get anywhere else.

If you are thinking of joining, then come by the building at any time – I'd be more than happy to show you around and answer any questions. You can also drop me an email at [president@cus.org](mailto:president@cus.org), or phone the Union on 01223 566 421.

Charles Connor  
President, Michaelmas 2018



# SPEAKERS



Being a member not only gives you the chance to hear from some of the biggest names in public life, but additionally members are entitled to attend drinks receptions and dinners with these speakers – offering you the chance to talk one-on-one with these individuals. In the last few years, we have hosted a remarkable range of individuals – from Caitlin Jenner to Professor Stephen Hawking, who delivered his final public address here last November.

In the realm of film and theatre, members have met the likes of Sir Ian McKellen, Bill Nighy, Sigourney Weaver, Dame Diana Rigg, and Baz Luhrman. Mary Berry and Heston Blumenthal have shared their cookery tips – and Dame Vivienne Westwood has reflected on her career in fashion and activism.

Politics is at the core of what we do. Since last Easter, we have welcomed the serving President of Ghana, and the former Prime Ministers of Australia, Kenya, and New Zealand. Dozens of MPs and Peers have spoken here in the past – including Jacob Rees-Mogg, Nicky Morgan, and Jeremy Corbyn. The current state of American politics has been explored by both Senator Bernie Sanders and Anthony Scaramucci, Trump's former Communications Director.

Michaelmas is already shaping up well, with a real range of speakers already confirmed – continuing this proud tradition.

# DEBATES

Every Thursday, the Union hosts one of its world-famous debates, pitting experts against one another on a range of issues.

Our debates often receive attention from the international media. This year, the Union was reported about across the world – and in a range of major British newspapers.

Members have recently seen Vince Cable team up with Yanis Varoufakis to attack austerity, Katie Price stand up for celebrity culture, Nicky Morgan clash with Jacob Rees-Mogg over Brexit, and Fearné Cotton speak movingly on mental health.

Members don't just watch the debates: they shape them. Every Friday at 3pm, we host open auditions for two out of the six spaces in the following week's debate. We encourage our members to challenge the paper debaters with questions, and to sit down with them afterwards for a drink in the bar.

# EVENTS

**S**ocial events at the Union capture the outgoing and engaging spirit of the society. From social drinks events, to FIFA tournaments to wine and cheese tastings, we have something for everyone to enjoy.

In trying to make the Union an open and welcoming environment for students of all backgrounds, we try to have social events that you want! From dance and yoga classes, to Krav Maga even, there is an assortment of activities to take your mind off work for a bit.

The best part, however, are our much anticipated balls and parties that members can enjoy at discounted ticket prices!

# MEMBERS' BENEFITS

## MEMBERS' DISCOUNTS

Union members have access to discounts at about twenty different Cambridge retailers. From Strada to Bill's, bike shops to hair salons, your membership card is the gateway to stacks of top-notch offers.

## RENEWED FACILITIES

The Union is about to embark on an ambitious £5.4 million redevelopment of its facilities. In just over a year's time, you'll be able to revel in Cambridge's newest bar space – and watch top-class comedy in the restored Footlights basement, where the likes of Emma Thompson and Stephen Fry learnt their trade.

## DEBATING WORKSHOPS

Travel the world at the Union's expense and get the very best lessons available in improving your public speaking and in teaching you to argue effectively from some of the best in the World in members only weekly workshops.

# WHY JOIN?

## WHAT DO I GET?

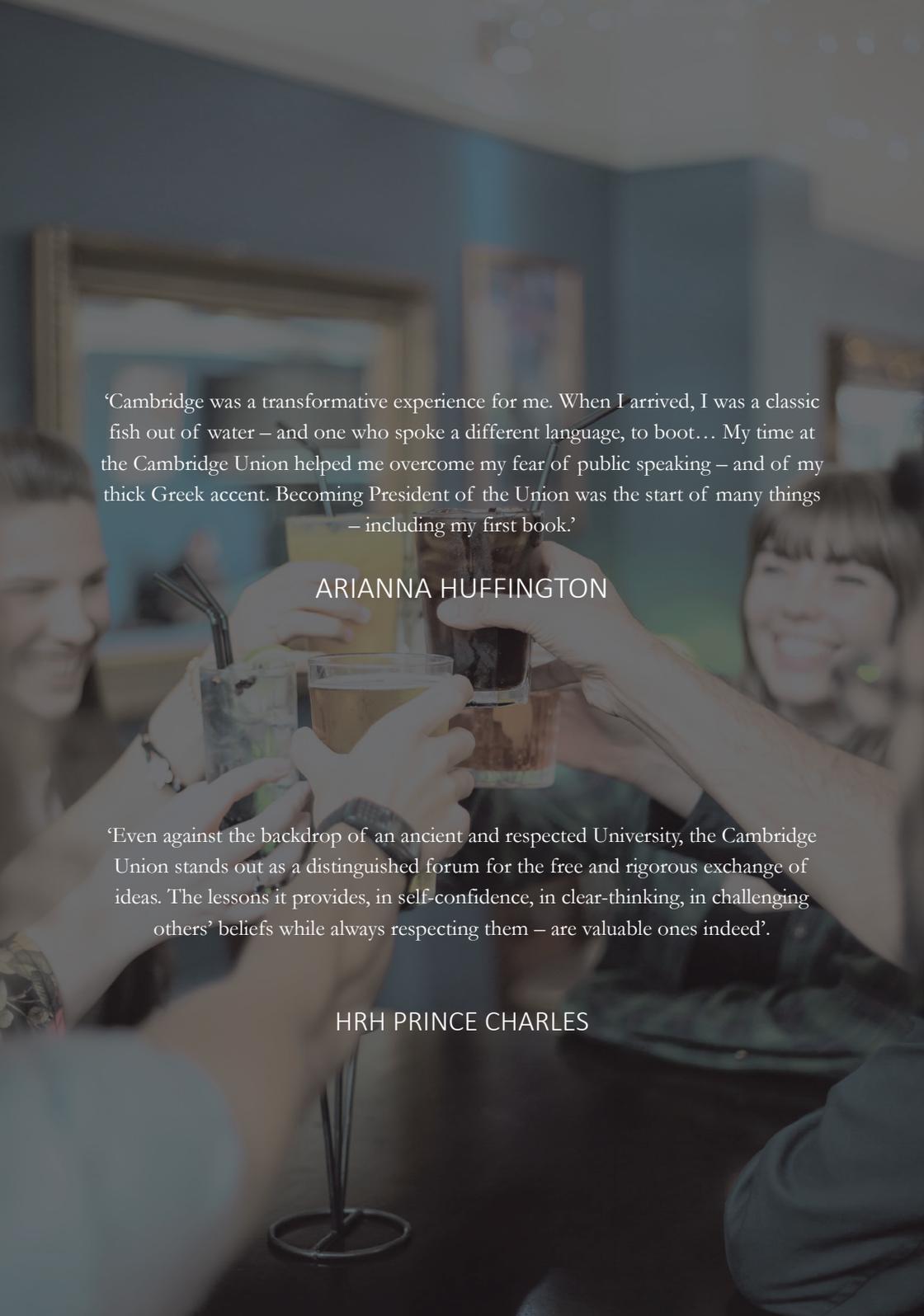
- The best way to meet and socialise with people outside of your college.
- Hear the most important, entertaining, or controversial speakers debate the issues of the day.
- Learn to debate from the best in the world.
- One of the cheapest bars in Cambridge.
- An opportunity to attend the University's only Freshers' Ball, for free!

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Normally, a life membership at the Union costs £180. But until 10 October, 6pm, this cost has been reduced to a special freshers' price of £150 – the lowest price for the last six years. This is less than a typical May Ball ticket – and works out to about £2 a week over the course of a three year degree. Becoming a member lasts for a lifetime!

## WHY DO I HAVE TO PAY?

Simply because the Union doesn't receive any funding from the University or the government. As an independent, non-profit-making charity, owned entirely by our members, we are dependent on membership fees to pay our full-time staff, maintain our premises, and run our events. All the money you give us is used to provide you with the best events and ents, whilst aiming to keep membership fees as low as possible.

A group of people are shown from the chest up, clinking their glasses in a toast. The scene is set in a dimly lit room, possibly a bar or a restaurant, with a large framed picture on the wall in the background. The people are smiling and appear to be in a celebratory mood. The glasses contain various beverages, including beer and cocktails. The overall atmosphere is warm and social.

‘Cambridge was a transformative experience for me. When I arrived, I was a classic fish out of water – and one who spoke a different language, to boot... My time at the Cambridge Union helped me overcome my fear of public speaking – and of my thick Greek accent. Becoming President of the Union was the start of many things – including my first book.’

ARIANNA HUFFINGTON

‘Even against the backdrop of an ancient and respected University, the Cambridge Union stands out as a distinguished forum for the free and rigorous exchange of ideas. The lessons it provides, in self-confidence, in clear-thinking, in challenging others’ beliefs while always respecting them – are valuable ones indeed’.

HRH PRINCE CHARLES