

# DOWNING



---

COLLEGE MAGAZINE  
2020



---

40 YEARS OF WOMEN  
COLLEGE NEWS  
MAGENTA NEWS

# WELCOME

**WELCOME TO THE** first edition of the *Downing Magazine*, combining the *Alumni Association Newsletter*, *Magenta News* and the *College Record* with *Dow@Cam*.

The last 20 years have seen a revolution in communications and the way in which publications, such as the *Newsletter* and *Dow@Cam*, are produced. This year, more than ever, we have benefitted from digital technology which has enabled this publication to be produced remotely.

Following a review by the College and the Association, assisted by an external report and consultation with various alumni, we agreed that now is the time to combine all printed publications, to enable alumni to read College news, articles and information in one place. *The Downing Column*, the College's e-newsletter, social media and the College website will complement the *Magazine*, ensuring that you can connect with us and receive news from Downing throughout the year.

Alongside our regular items, this edition includes feature articles. Two particular highlights are the 40th anniversary of women and interviews with the Vice Master, Dr Paul Millett, the Senior Bursar, Dr Susan Lintott, Professor Bill Adams and Dr Cathy Phillips, who are retiring this year having given well over 100 years of service to the College between them.

We hope that you enjoy the *Downing Magazine*, it is a work in progress and all views are most welcome, as are contributions to future editions.

**JO FINNIE JONES**  
Development Director

**SIMON WALKER**  
Honorary Secretary, Downing  
College Alumni Association



# In this Issue

## FROM THE MASTER

2–5

---

## FEATURES

6–33



## COLLEGE NEWS

34–43

---

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

44–55

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

56–71

---

## STUDENT NEWS

72–107



## MAGENTA NEWS

108–157

---

## OBITUARIES

158–200

# THE MASTER WRITES

**IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY** the difficult second album is a well-known phenomenon. Well, for me this has been a difficult second year – a time of disruption and dislocation that has placed unprecedented demands on the whole community and tested the resilience of us all.

As the academic year started, we were mourning two sudden deaths. Within days of leaving Downing, postgraduate student Dominic Hamlyn had died of heart failure in his family's swimming pool. He was a much-loved character in the MCR and the rugby team. Then Alex Morris, Bye Fellow in Economics, passed away peacefully, but unexpectedly. She was a true champion of her students, not just directing their studies with enthusiasm but guiding them on their first career steps. After these initial shocks, we were delighted to welcome three new Fellows – Frisbee Sheffield (Classics), Joe Webster (Anthropology) and later in the year Josie Hughes as our new Mays-Wild Fellow. It was also a pleasure to admit four distinguished Honorary Fellows – Sir Keith Ajegbo, educationalist and anti-racist campaigner, Victoria Brignell, producer of *In Our Time* on the BBC and disability champion, and two eminent Oxford Professors previously at Downing, Martin Maiden and Ritchie Robertson.

---

“Well, for me this has been a difficult second year – a time of disruption and dislocation that has placed unprecedented demands on the whole community and tested the resilience of us all.”



**Alan Bookbinder**

The Freshers' Recital in the Master's Lodge exceeded even the very high standards of previous years. It was followed by a series of outstanding performances from the Music Society. Excellent newcomers joined the core of talented singers in the Chapel Choir. In the Howard Theatre the Dramatic Society's production of *The Tempest* and the Freshers' Play *The Lower Depths* were thrilling. The annual *Festival of New Writing* went from strength to strength and Steve Bennett, already the animating force behind much of Downing drama, agreed to become our first Director of Drama. The Heong Gallery followed its crowd-pulling Yoko Ono show with a splendid Barbara Hepworth exhibition *Divided Circle*. We had just opened *We Are Here*, a celebration of art by and about women in Cambridge, when lockdown forced

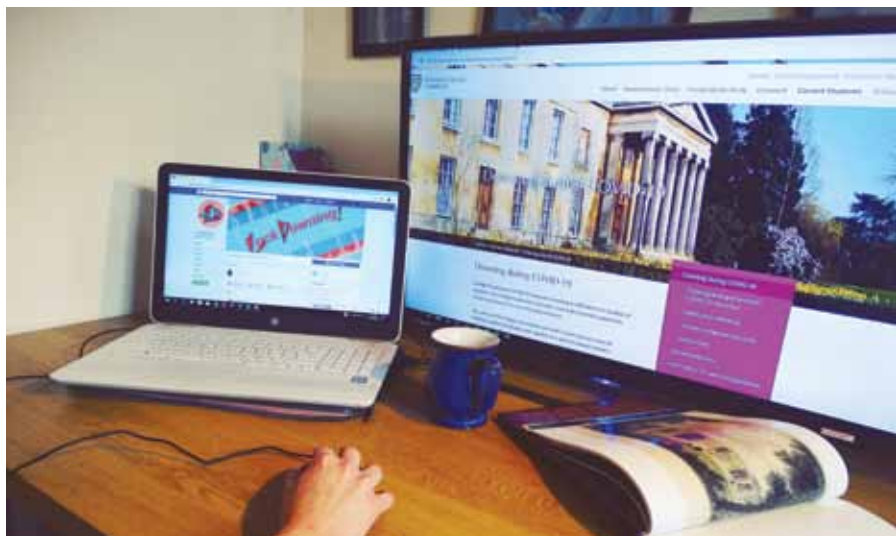
all the Gallery's activity online. I remain enormously grateful to the group of alumni who continue to support the Heong and allow it to punch well above its weight in the cultural life of the city.

We kept up our high standards on the river – W1 ended Lent Bumps at the Head of the River and W2 earned Superblades; at the Winter Head both M1 and W1 won top position. May Bumps of course was cancelled, as was the Boat Race, preventing Downing Blue Callum Sullivan from going for a second successive victory. Lockdown also denied us a chance to retain Rugby Cuppers, having comfortably reached the final.

Another high point for me was my meetings with alumni in New York and Hong Kong

---

"I remain enormously grateful to the group of alumni who continue to support the Heong and allow it to punch well above its weight in the cultural life of the city."



### Desktop Downing by Nathan Parker: Downing Alumni Photographic Competition

at the turn of the year. Their abiding interest in the College and their continuing generosity are inspiring. I am especially grateful to Andrew Jones for hosting a party for East Coast-based alumni at his apartment overlooking Central Park and to Bob and Sally Bunker for their hospitality in introducing me to Downing's lively cohort settled in Hong Kong.

It was on the latter trip, reading the *South China Morning Post* on New Year's Eve, that I first heard of the fateful coronavirus, then a nasty sounding, but local outbreak in Wuhan. Little did I know what devastation it would bring. As Lent term ended, and lockdown was imposed, the scale of the virus' disruption dawned. College closed, but for around 60 students whose homes were unreachable or unsuitable for study. A skeleton staff covered essential work. Teaching and examinations went online. The Commemoration Service and Feast were cancelled, along with May Week, Graduation in the Senate House,

events to celebrate 40 Years of Women, alumni reunions and the Association Weekend in September. The College's income took a heavy hit, with almost no student rents received in Easter Term, all conference and summer school bookings cancelled and regular income from our property portfolio mostly lost. Stock market falls have depleted our endowment and development events have been postponed. It will take time to recover, so I am enormously grateful to those alumni who have rallied to help us. We should perhaps be relieved that other financial threats have not as yet materialised, such as cuts to student tuition fees.

Lockdown demonstrated the resilience and flexibility of Downing's outstanding staff team. It also brought home to me how much our life as a community depends on human contact and physical proximity. It is our face-to-face supervisions, our formal and informal gatherings, the way we share College spaces and the whole range of our



social interactions that define and sustain us. We can just about function on Zoom and Microsoft Teams, but we cannot thrive in the way we do when we are together in person. I am particularly sorry that students in their final year have been deprived of their last term in residence, sitting exams together, sharing the relief and euphoria that follow and enjoying the ceremony, the celebrations and the farewells that would normally remain in their memory forever. We will invite them back for delayed graduation festivities as soon as possible next year. As the pandemic gradually recedes and the rules on social distancing ease, we are looking forward to welcoming as many students as possible for Michaelmas term and resurrecting College life with sensible precautions. With an eye for our longer-term sustainability, we are proceeding with new student accommodation at 90–92 Regent Street and commissioning detailed architectural plans for a new student centre.

The Easter term brought pain and anger to our community at the brutal killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Racism is a concern for all of us and I have pledged to re-examine our own processes to ensure we are listening carefully to our students' concerns and taking

---

“It is our face-to-face supervisions, our formal and informal gatherings, the way we share College spaces and the whole range of our social interactions that define and sustain us.”

action as necessary, whether in our training, our disciplinary procedures, our welfare provision or our recruitment practices.

The year ended with the sad news of Honorary Fellow Dr Alan Howard's death. As you know, Alan's contribution to the College via the Howard Foundation was immeasurable; without his exceptional generosity we would not have the Howard Court, encompassing the Howard Building, the Howard Theatre and the Grace Howard Room. He retained his close interest in Downing until the end and we mourn his passing.

Another sadness is our imminent loss of key Fellows to retirement: Susan Lintott, the Senior Bursar, has made a uniquely valuable contribution to life at Downing; Paul Millett, the Vice Master, has brought insight and delight to his many roles in College; Bill Adams and Cathy Phillips, too, have played significant parts over many years, Bill since his undergraduate days here. Amy Goymour is another Fellow and alumna whose departure we lament, and we wish Andy Holding, Ellen Nisbett and Alicia Hinarejos well in their new posts at York, Nottingham and Montreal respectively. Among the new Fellows arriving in the autumn is Gavin Flynn as Senior Bursar; he combines a career in corporate finance and strategy with extensive non-executive experience in education.

As the College looks to steady itself again, I anticipate a period ahead of tough challenges, but I am confident that the Downing community will respond with determination and good cheer to put this period of disruption behind us and emerge restored and renewed.

**ALAN BOOKBINDER**







# FEATURES

Ariadne's Thread: Celebrating Downing women	8
'Starting everything from scratch': 40 years since the admission of women	13
Downing and beyond: three Downing women from the 90's, 00's and 10's	19
The changing of the guard	27
The Downing Daffodil	31

Ariadne's Thread:

CELEBRATING  
DOWNING  
WOMEN

---

This year, Downing celebrates  
40 years of women's admissions

A MEDIC  
A FINANCIAL JOURNALIST  
A BARRISTER  
A TECH STRATEGIST

Four decades, four professions, four women – and a shared experience of path-finding and problem-solving. These are just four of the hugely successful women who have helped to shape Downing's influence in the world over the past 40 years.

**OPPOSITE: 1980 graduate matriculation (extract), with the first two female graduate students, Hildegund Morgan (née Kumpfmüller) right and Susan Bernard (née Frank) left with the Master, Sir John Butterfield**

© Lafayette Photography Ltd/ Eaden Lilley

**CONSULTANT GYNAECOLOGIST** and Olympic rower Kate Panter arrived to study medicine in 1981, the second year of women's admission to Downing. "We were very much in the minority," she recalls. "Maybe five men to one woman. There were no female loos, so you got quite adept at using any one you could find!" 10 years later, when Dharshini David, economist and now the BBC's global trade correspondent, came up to read Economics, the gender ratio was "perhaps three to one". "I remember seeing a poster celebrating 10 years of women at Downing, but there were still some staircases that only had gents' loos!"

Over the next few years, the College was busy building more than women's bathrooms. By the time Chancery barrister Narinder Jhittay arrived to study Law in 2005, there was a cohort of Downing female graduates ready to pass on advice and provide inspiration – Ariadne's thread unspooling to the next generation. Jhittay says: "I had a real lightbulb moment when I encountered two

alumnae, Janet Bignell, now a QC, and the late Claire Causton [née Cunningham], who, with characteristic kindness, took the time to talk to me about their work. I could really identify with them and that made me think seriously that the Bar was an option for me."

And by the time Osaseri Guobadia, product director at digital events platform Songkick, began her studies in Engineering in 2011, what she calls "the tomboy experience" was the exception rather than the norm. Nonetheless, "in my day-to-day course, and at the department, it was still very much male. It's quite something to have almost all your supervisors and lecturers being

---

"By the time Chancery barrister Narinder Jhittay arrived... there was a cohort of Downing female graduates ready to pass on advice and provide inspiration..."





**Downing's 1st IV gaining blades in the 1982 May Bumps after a double overbump**

Courtesy of Paula Smith (Nock, 1980)

men, though Engineering might be one of the worst subjects for that!" It's a salutary reminder that every student's experience remains embedded in the wider context of the University.

The earliest cohorts of female applicants encountered a College with a hearty male character – "full of rugby players, rowers and medics", recalls David (who says that coming from an all-girls' school and female-dominated household she may have been "subconsciously, at least, looking for a change"). That didn't daunt Panter, herself a medic and already a junior international rower before she came up. But it did mean that this first generation carved out its own space as it went along. "The women's boat club was in its infancy," recalls Panter, who went on to row in the University Blue boat. "This was a time when women weren't even allowed into Goldie, the men's Blues boathouse." But when she represented Great Britain as an Olympic rower in her final year of study, Panter found Downing exceptionally supportive. "It was a

risky thing and I really valued that they let me and didn't micromanage me."

"I wasn't a sporty girl and wouldn't have been much good on the rugby field," recalls David, but Downing drew her in from the moment she stepped through its gates. "I just walked in and experienced that great sense of space. Downing doesn't look like any other College – it has a campus feel and a community. I thought: 'This feels like my kind of place, let's go for it.' But at the end of my interview, I asked what economists from Downing went on to do. The reply began, 'Well, our Downing men ...', and I said, 'But the women?' There was this awkward laugh and I really thought I'd blown it."

She hadn't, of course. "It was a case of happily ever after – I had a fantastic three years." And David believes that early experience of fitting into, and challenging, an environment shaped by and for men in fact stood her in good stead. "I've worked in the City of London, government, industry, journalism – been a woman in a man's world. So it's great not

---

“Helping others advance is a shared goal of the four decades of Downing women who now comprise a cohort more than a thousand strong.”

being fazed and being able to hold your own when you realise it’s all boys.” (And, yes, she did take up rowing at Downing – as a cox. That, too, has proved to have benefits all these years later. “I still have an ergo in my study,” David admits. “It’s been doing good work during lockdown.”)

The occasional interview faux pas aside, it was Downing’s men who worked hard to open up the College to female colleagues and students. Their efforts began under pioneering and popular Master Sir John Butterfield and were taken forward by subsequent generations of inspiring educators. Jhittay singles out Law Fellow and QC Graham Virgo, who “recognised my potential long before I did and encouraged me to aim high. Now that I’m in a position to help others advance, he is basically my blueprint for how to be a good mentor or ally to someone.”

Helping others advance is a shared goal of the four decades of Downing women who now comprise a cohort more than a thousand strong. And if three – or more – years at Downing begins the process of education and advancement for those who attend, it is this wider, extramural community that will continue it. However, that won’t be a straightforward task.

The first women who entered Downing found a warm reception and swiftly adapted within

the existing patterns of College life – “the Boat Club, the dining and drinking societies all welcomed us and it was great fun. There was one early female drinking society, the Orchids,” recalls Panther. But these institutions, although still beloved by students of all genders to this day, nonetheless conform to templates dating from when Cambridge was overwhelmingly attended by privately educated men. “I loved all that,” says Panther. “The gowns, the drinking parties, the rowing blazers. But it’s not fundamentally female.”

And women aren’t the only group of students without an inherent link to these traditions. “Cambridge is steeped in history. You can feel it in the air all around and it’s really poetic,” says Guobadia. “But I’m Nigerian; I had been in England for two years when I went to Cambridge. So many of these public-school, old-boy traditions weren’t familiar to me. And it’s like that for lots of people coming here, such as lower-income students – the sense that these aren’t *my* traditions. You try to get into them, but they’re not for everyone.”

So as Downing, and the University as a whole, rises to the next great challenge of becoming more accessible to students from economically, culturally and sexually diverse backgrounds, the experiences and insights of women graduates are invaluable.

Downing is rightly proud of its achievements so far. “Even when I was there, there was a lot of outreach,” says David of the 1990s. “And today we still need that, to attract a wider range of people from a wider range of backgrounds.” Guobadia agrees: “There’s been a lot of work in recent years to get women on a par. But there are still many other groups that aren’t as represented. Some people need a boost – they need to have

people they can see themselves in. They don't have the advantage of access, work experience, or a network either at Cambridge or in their careers afterwards."

Panter is the incoming President of the Downing Alumni Association and one of her priorities is working out how to strengthen and leverage that network to benefit existing and future students. That means thinking creatively about how things are done. "It's harder to get women to come to things like dinners," she says. "It's not just about offering childcare while they go to eat institutional food in Hall. It's about how can we engage with women in the way they'd like to be engaged? The answer's got to be cool and interesting, but I don't know what it is, yet!"

"The kind of thing that interests me," says Guobadia, "are things where I feel like I'm making a difference to students, where I can share what I've done since graduation, like talking to a sixth-form about my career. I think a lot of people would be keen to come back and give back in that way." Jhittay envisages Downing's "network of talented and driven people" using its influence "to promote equality in whatever fields they enter."

Whatever form future initiatives take, Downing's women are confident that their College will rise to the challenge. "It would be easy for Downing to sit back and say 'We're doing fine,'" says David. "But instead, College is agile and always thinking of the next idea. I'm really proud of it."



**Downing College Pink Elephants, 1986.** This was the female equivalent of The Griffins Club, which remained exclusively for male members until its disbanding in 1997. It was reformed as a mixed sporting club in 2000. Courtesy of Sadie Hubbard (Wickens, 1983) © Lafayette Photography Ltd/ Eaden Lilley



# ‘Starting everything from scratch’: 40 YEARS SINCE THE ADMISSION OF WOMEN

---

“Downing was a crazy and exciting place – a poor College with big ambitions, and a wonderful Master – Prof Sir John Butterfield. We may have had a falling-down boat house and famously some of the worst food in Cambridge, but the College spirit was strong and none of that ever stopped us.”

FEMALE STUDENT (1980)



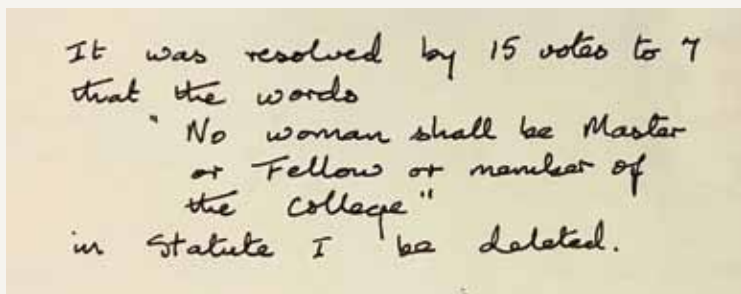
**40 YEARS AGO**, on 7 October 1980, the first 24 female students matriculated at Downing College. The first female Fellow had been elected two years earlier after the removal of the restriction on women from Statute I in 1977. These first women were vastly outnumbered and faced many challenges as the College and its members adapted to the most significant change in its history...

Churchill, Clare and King’s became the first all-male colleges to admit women in 1972 and, as others followed, Downing established a Co-Residence Committee to explore the various options. A ‘close association’ with Girton was initially considered as a possible alternative to co-residence, although the JCR expressed fears “that such a merger might be a poor substitute for co-residence”. (As it happened, Girton voted to admit men in 1976.) In February 1976, after the Master was authorised to claim “a place in the queue of Colleges waiting to admit women”, students voted (by 47 to 2) to press the College to “keep the future admission of women under active review”. Discussions continued regarding the possible implications of co-residence, including its potential

impact on male applications, academic results and sporting successes.

A 'Co-residence referendum' was held by students in early 1977 and the results in favour of the admission of women (182 votes to 84 with one abstention) were announced on 5 May. The very next day, a special meeting of the Governing Body was held, at which the historic resolution "that the words "No women shall be Master or Fellow or member of

the College" in Statute I be deleted" was passed by a single vote. (Statute amendments had to be approved by a two-thirds majority of Governing Body members present. Dr Martin Mays, Admissions Tutor at the time, remembers that the single-vote majority was achieved in part due to the election of a new Fellow just before the meeting! At the required confirmatory meeting on 24 June 1977, it was passed by 16 votes to 2.)



## The first female member of Downing College

**ON 20 JANUARY 1978**, the Governing Body agreed the first female students would arrive in October 1980 to allow time for alterations to rooms (on separate floors) designated for women and a new admissions leaflet, with students encouraged to write to their old schools to advertise the change. On 17 July 1978, Dr Jane Weston (later Dr Shemilt) was elected as the first female Fellow – and member – of Downing College and she was soon providing a valuable female perspective on committees. Dr Shemilt

remembers the Fellows welcoming her kindly, although they were apologetic that the copy of the Statutes she received at her election had not yet been corrected with the all-important change to Statute II! The majority of admissions interviews for female applicants were held the following year, but the first offer, for deferred entry, was made in late 1978 to medic Paula Nock. (She was later instrumental in setting up the first women's boat, which rowed in the 1981 Lent Bumps, partly in defiance of advice to avoid 'unladylike' rowing!)



**Womens' 1981 Lent Bumps crew**

As October 1980 approached, some male students – and Fellows – had reservations about the admission of women and its impact on the College. The final issue of *The Griffin* circulated to an all-male Downing in Easter Term 1980 featured a rather startling front cover from the 1935 film *Mark of the Vampire*.

The JCR President wrote inside that the visible impact of the arrival of women would 'be negligible, amounting to a few subtly placed shower curtains and the addition of an extra laundry behind T staircase', although the social ramifications were still to be assessed. Downing's male students, though, had more pressing concerns... A food referendum that term to force improvements in food provision voted overwhelmingly in favour of a 'free-flow multi-choice cafeteria system'. The admission of women, therefore, coincided with – or possibly resulted in – noticeable improvements to the catering offering for students, even though Downing still had "famously some of the worst food in Cambridge".

The first 24 women – 22 undergraduates and 2 graduates – arrived with surprisingly little fanfare. They were hugely outnumbered, although ratios varied – 50% of medics



"The final issue of *The Griffin* circulated to an all-male Downing in Easter Term 1980 featured a rather startling front cover from the 1935 film *Mark of the Vampire*."



**1980 undergraduate matriculation photograph**

© Lafayette Photography Ltd/ Eaden Lilley

admitted in 1980 were women. They quickly made a difference to the 'laddish' atmosphere in College (although many from this era remember that the College remained more 'hearty' than most). They threw themselves into College life, joining societies, forming sports teams, virtually taking over production of *The Griffin* and helping to organise productions and even a pantomime in the West Lodge. The College – and its facilities – were somewhat slower to adapt. By Lent 1981, although nearly half of the College's female students were involved in the Boat Club, they still had no facilities at the Boathouse. Similarly, the Netball Team waited four years – and three promotions – for their own court and posts.

Despite comparatively low numbers, the first women at Downing quickly assumed high profile roles in College. The JCR appointed a women's representative in the 1980 Michaelmas term and female representation increased quickly over subsequent years, with

---

“Despite comparatively low numbers, the first women at Downing quickly assumed high profile roles in College.”

Penny Furniss (1981) elected as the first female JCR President in 1983. (The MCR had elected its first female President – Tessa Grolman (1981) – the previous year). Paula Nock (1980) was President of the 1983 May Ball Committee and, with Kate Panter (1981), rowed in the 1982 Boat Race and in the World Championships. Kate rowed for Great Britain at the 1984 Olympics. Other sports teams were formed in the first years, with women often representing the College in several sports. Caroline Evans (1980) represented the University at Sailing and was part of the College's first mixed crew, but other sports, such as Netball, had to wait several years before a team could be formed.





**Ladies' 1st Tennis Team photograph, 1985.**

The Ladies' Tennis team was formed in the first year of women at Downing. The team report in the 1981 Alumni Newsletter reported that the 'team competed in the newly formed inter-college league for women despite having rather fewer from which to select the team than some other colleges!' By 1991, they were winning Cuppers, after reaching the final for the fourth consecutive year. **L to R:** SL Wickens, FS Gethin, DR Cantrell, LS Grimes, CE Brownfield, JE Reaney, JM Homewood.

Courtesy of FS Travis (Gethin, 1983)  
(© Lafayette Photography Ltd/ Eaden Lilley)



**Ladies' Football Team photograph, 1987.**

The first Ladies' team in any sport to reach a Cuppers final. **L to R:** CE Brownfield, SJ Lane, ZW Stone, M Hotten, F Cunningham, C Pugh, JME Flint, JM Homewood, SJ Dunn, LS Grimes (Captain), KA Morris, SJ Wickens, P Disberry

Courtesy of SJ Ashburner (Lane, 1985)  
(© Lafayette Photography Ltd/ Eaden Lilley)

The proportion of female admissions continued to rise, reaching 40% of new undergraduates by 1990. However, applications from women remained lower than those received by other Colleges and admissions numbers fell again. In 1994 the JCR and Governing Body discussed ways to encourage female applications and a new admissions prospectus was commissioned. This clearly had the desired effect as, in 1996, the number of female undergraduates admitted significantly outnumbered men for the first time (56%). The following year, Dr Susan Lintott was elected as the College's first female Bursar and Dr Phyllis Lee became its first female Dean in 2001. The number of female Fellows at the Millennium had doubled by 2008.

---

“Since the election of Downing’s first female Fellow in 1978 and the admission of its first cohort of women in 1980, the College has welcomed and benefitted from almost 3,000 female students and nearly 50 female Fellows.”



## 40 years on

**SINCE THE ELECTION** of Downing’s first female Fellow in 1978 and the admission of its first cohort of women in 1980, the College has welcomed and benefitted from almost 3,000 female students and nearly 50 female Fellows. The JCR has elected 10 female Presidents in the past 15 years<sup>1</sup> and, in the last academic year, women made up 42% of the student body as a whole. They are at the forefront of their various disciplines and engaged in all aspects of student life. Downing today has changed almost beyond recognition from the College which welcomed the first women 40 years ago and prides itself on being a place of welcome, diversity and inclusion for all. It is especially fitting that in October, Professor Zoe Barber will become the first female Vice Master in the College’s history.


---

*Thank you to all those who have shared their time, memories and photographs during this research project. It was intended to support a major archive exhibition to mark the 40th anniversary, although this – and related events – was sadly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is now intended to share as much as possible with the wider Downing community through special pages on the College website<sup>2</sup> and through social media channels, with the hope that the physical exhibition may still be possible.*

**JENNY ULPH**

College Archivist

Follow the Archive:

 @DowningArchives

 [www.facebook.com/downingcollegearchives](http://www.facebook.com/downingcollegearchives)

---

<sup>1</sup> Figures not available for the MCR.

<sup>2</sup> [www.dow.cam.ac.uk/people/alumi-and-development/40-years-women-downing](http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/people/alumi-and-development/40-years-women-downing)



# Three Downing women from the 90's, 00's and 10's

90's

---

## Medicine from a Ugandan perspective: what can we learn from Uganda?

SARAH GILES (1998)

**FIVE AND A HALF YEARS** of Medicine at Cambridge prepares you for much. Did it really “prepare” me for instructing my mum on mouth-to-mouth resuscitation of my two year old son, whilst driving at top pace through the main street of Masaka, Uganda? Maybe not. (He is fine now.) But Downing graduates are nothing if not resourceful, so all was well.

After three years of rigorous education at the hands of the Faculty of Medicine, supported by tutorials from educators, both clinical and non-clinical, at Downing, it was time to move on to see “real life patients” myself. Everything seemed to be in a perpetual state of flux, but I was in a fortunate cohort for whom

acceptance at the University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine was virtually guaranteed. I am very glad that it was and delighted at the range of clinical areas to which I was exposed. Nothing like humans to make a textbook spring to life!

Following my time at Downing and a few years working in the UK, I met my husband. We moved to Uganda in 2011 and I started my volunteer work at a missionary hospital run by some rather formidable nuns. Given my lack of Luganda, I thought that paediatrics would be a good place to start. Unfortunately, I soon realised that my secondment to the Children's Ward was not having any major positive impact, since when I was there, the person who should have been on the Ward (with years of experience in tropical diseases),

---

“I was in a fortunate cohort for whom acceptance at the University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine was virtually guaranteed.”

---

“This makes it all the more amazing when little beans like Asiimwe’s daughter (Mirembe, opposite) do so very well.”

did other things instead. Moreover, I wasn’t able to enact any of the changes that I felt might be positive, since I wasn’t in charge of the Ward.

Within a few months, there was a bit of a commotion as word spread that some donors who had sent neonatal equipment were coming out to see it in action. All good and well... except it was in unusually pristine condition, stored neatly in a cupboard. So I was roped in to help set up the Baby Unit, along with my partner in crime, Brigitte, a retired Canadian emergency department nurse.

Since opening in January 2013, after months of preparation, the Baby Unit has looked after 35–40 babies every month (of the 135 or so babies born at the hospital per month, alongside babies born elsewhere who are brought to the Unit). It hasn’t been without challenges, not least the simple logistics. There were frequent, and sometimes prolonged, issues with supplies of water and power, as well as limited equipment forcing us to “ration” who should be given oxygen, for example. Nevertheless, the highs were often very high.

It is worth noting that the official “survival age” for babies is 28 weeks’ gestation. Any baby born below that is called an “inevitable miscarriage”. Their mothers aren’t even



given steroids by doctors (giving the mother steroids helps the unborn baby’s lungs to develop). After all “what’s the point” if they’re going to die anyway, right? This makes it all the more amazing when little beans like Asiimwe’s daughter (Mirembe) do so very well. Born at just 760g and 27 weeks gestation, she is now a healthy 4-year old as can be seen from the photographs. Not bad for a miscarriage. I am honoured to still get the occasional email updates from her mum.

What now? As my husband used to say: “We were trying to do ourselves out of a job”. Since moving back to the UK in summer 2016, my involvement with the Baby Unit is largely limited to sourcing equipment/fundraising. In time (when our children are older and hopefully a little better behaved!) we will return and no doubt there will be a place for some Baby Unit education updates for staff. In the meantime, the long-term staff in the hospital are doing sterling work, keeping everything running, feeding back and calling for support when needed.

## So what are my survival tips for aspiring medics in Uganda?

- Medicine is political. Anywhere. It is very easy to think that West is Best. I mean, we have all the research to back up our strategies, don't we? Nevertheless, what works in the UK may not work in Uganda and failing to respect this gets you exactly nowhere.
- Find your niche. It may not be where you think. I did not go to Uganda expecting to set up the Baby Unit.
- Tiny, white-haired nuns are well able to scare the pants off even the toughest of doctors... though they may be bribed with cake.
- Non-medical spouses will never let the lack of a medical degree be a barrier to them offering sage advice to all and sundry. Annoyingly, their diagnoses are often correct.
- Common ground is really helpful in cementing cross-cultural relationships – for example, I found the level of relationship that we could have was much deeper once we added children to the mix.
- On that.... relationship is incredibly important in Uganda. Much more so than other outcomes, which is why time keeping often is not as you would expect/hope. This is less of an issue in the hospital, since the very nature of hospital work makes some degree of time keeping a necessity, but it is still relevant. “Now” most certainly does not always mean now. But “now now” just might (or might not!).
- And finally... try to learn the lingo! Not only will you get serious kudos for giving Luganda a go, but it also gives you insight into the nuances that are commonplace. For example, we would advise you not to get over-excited if someone says they'll “flash you” later. It may not be quite as saucy as you think. In fact, in Uganda, to flash someone is to give them a missed call (they “flash” you; you call them back, they save money!) No, not quite as exciting, is it? Similarly (and sadly topically), don't be alarmed if you look at an NGO budget in Uganda and see a specific budget for “escorts”. In fact, it just means something like a samosa or a chapatti (something to “escort” your morning tea) – less racy, but arguably (a little) better for your health!

So how did Downing prepare me?  
Perhaps little in terms of preparation for cross-cultural work, although I suspect that Downing is a less homogenous place than it once was. But in terms of giving me a solid foundation of knowledge and an approach to problem solving, Downing is second to none, and I am very thankful for that.

## Downing in a digital age

NICKI MCGOY (2000)

**ALONG WITH MANY** other all-male Cambridge Colleges, Downing's move to open its doors to women signified an important step towards greater gender equality in University life and an opening up of opportunity for many young people. As someone who directly benefited from this change, I have been reflecting on the ways in which my own experience at Downing and Cambridge has shaped the work I have gone on to do, particularly in relation to the expansion of opportunity for low-income communities, as brought about by digital technology.

As a matriculant of the year 2000, mine was one of the first year-groups to start university in a digital age. Exchanging emails and communicating by mobile phone were starting to become standard practice. For the first time, assignments, supervisions and College sports matches were all organised by email and the vast majority of my peers had their own (basic) mobile phone. My university years were therefore not only a time of intellectual growth and enrichment, but also marked a period in which our way of life started to change. Suddenly we had a wealth of information at our fingertips and we could be contacted at all times of the day and night. There was a sense that the internet was opening up opportunities and breaking down barriers: an innovation that really could be – as Sir Tim Berners-Lee hoped – “for everyone”.

When I arrived at Downing to read French and Spanish, it is fair to say that I had a

somewhat limited world view. Growing up in a small town in Dorset, I had always been fascinated to learn more about life in other countries and as a pre-teen I had pen-pals in South Africa, Romania, the USA and the Netherlands. Whilst I had been fortunate to travel, I had never explored another country properly or veered away from tourist destinations and major cities. Arriving at Downing was therefore an intimidating, yet enthralling experience. My peer group was culturally diverse and global, many friends were well-travelled and I was suddenly part of a wider community with an international outlook. As clichéd as it sounds, university really was a whole new world for me and I had an awful lot to learn.

As I reflect on how my time at Downing influenced my subsequent career, two principle themes come to mind – namely, taking a much more global perspective and starting to recognise the potential benefits of digital technology. In 2009, having worked for over five years in London as a strategy

---

“My university years were therefore not only a time of intellectual growth and enrichment, but also marked a period in which our way of life started to change.”



**Mobile phone users in Assam during a digital identity project (the Aadhaar system)**

Photograph E. Schoemaker

consultant, I took unpaid leave to travel in francophone West Africa for six months – something I could never have imagined doing before university. During this time, I took up a consulting assignment in Senegal on behalf of Kiva, a San Francisco-based technology start-up. Kiva uses an online platform to match individuals with intermediaries that provide credit to ‘unbanked’ populations of small businesses and entrepreneurs in developing countries. In the early years of its existence, Kiva sent mid-career professionals, such as myself, to work with some of its financial partners to ensure that they met the high standards of transparency and integrity on which their business model relied.

In hindsight, it was a fascinating time to be doing such work. I learned about emerging mobile payments infrastructure, which enabled people to perform financial

transactions using mobile phones. This technology was a real game-changer. Mobile money infrastructure has now been replicated in 95 countries and has reached one billion users, forming the backbone of a number of digital services including energy provision, insurance coverage, agricultural advisory services and online work. In international development terms, it has been a notable success story.

On return from Senegal, having been inspired by the digital innovation I’d seen in these “less developed” countries, I took a role within the UK’s Department for International Development, devising new initiatives to support digital entrepreneurship and innovation in lower-income countries. One such initiative saw me eventually transition into a small core team tasked with launching a new government-backed \$200m social investment

---

“I’ve no doubt that the latest matriculating women (and men) will be similarly inspired by their experience at Downing and I can’t wait to see what they go on to do.”

fund to support the most promising innovations with venture capital-type funding. By the time of our launch in 2015, there had been a proliferation of new digital platforms, applications and technologies that sought to change the lives of the world’s poorest. Reviewing and scrutinising hundreds of business plans each month, we aimed to identify the ideas with the most potential to create transformational social impact. It was challenging, but awe-inspiring work and has made me cautiously optimistic for the future in many of the countries where we were working.

In the 20 years since my matriculation, the pace of change in our way of life has been incredible. Digitisation touches every aspect of our daily existence. As I write this in spring 2020 in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, I am all too aware of how different a lockdown would have been without the technological capabilities that we have today. On the other hand, my work reminds me that the availability of and accessibility to digital technologies cannot yet be taken for granted “for everyone”. There is still more to be done to fulfil Berners-Lee’s vision and ensure that the opportunities fostered by the internet are open to all. I now work in an advisory role for Governments, companies and NGOs, looking at how to ensure that the digital age can be as inclusive, ethical and positive for as many people as possible.

One of my current projects is with the UK’s Space Agency which is funding a number of UK business consortia to use satellite communications, navigation systems and/or earth observation technologies to address sustainable development challenges in lower-income countries. Over the past few years satellite launch costs have plummeted and unprecedented volumes of free Earth observation data have become available. The combination of satellites, sensors and smartphones enables us to improve disaster response capabilities, to map changes in land use for forest conservation, to support farming communities with highly localised data and to track pest and disease outbreaks. These tools leverage data to give governments, businesses and communities more decision-making power and therefore the ability to generate positive social, economic and environmental change.

It was during my years at Downing that I first appreciated the power of digital technology to break down barriers and to expand my horizons. College life, as well as my languages and year abroad experience, only increased my curiosity to travel and to make the career move away from strategy consulting and into international development. 20 years on, the effects of digitisation are even more apparent; half of the world’s population has a micro-computer in their pocket. Machines sense and learn. Human knowledge and innovation have been supercharged. Managed correctly, this digital era presents a huge opportunity for its young people. I’ve no doubt that the latest matriculating women (and men) will be similarly inspired by their experience at Downing and I can’t wait to see what they go on to do.



## Experiencing Government during crises

RACHEL MUMFORD (2014)

**DURING MY TIME** at Cambridge, it was almost impossible to walk around the city centre without bumping into someone I knew. I thought that once I left, these kinds of run-ins would stop – but it didn't take long to be proven wrong! And a debate in the House of Commons would have been my least likely location for a reunion, but of course, it happened. It was a true testament to the amazing Downing network, and the network of Downing women in particular, that the clerk for a debate where I had been supporting one of the junior Treasury ministers was none other than Medha Bhasin, another geographer who had been in the year above me at Downing. It was one of those moments that reminded me how much had changed since me considering Cambridge at school and then from coming out of T Staircase in 2013 on a dark, freezing cold December evening after my interviews, to my MPhil graduation. It has definitely been a journey, but I've been so lucky to have an incredible support network of friends, family, teachers and now colleagues.

It's a well-worn cliché, but through the ups and downs of being at Cambridge, Downing really was home for four years. I studied Geography (so survived all four years without a bike, much to the horror of anyone I knew whose Cambridge life extended beyond the



Rachel during her MPhil year

Downing site) and was then fortunate enough to receive a scholarship from Downing to stay on to complete my MPhil. Writing now, in the strange circumstances of lockdown, Easter term 2020 is beginning in Cambridge with no lectures, no exams, no May Week and no graduation... some of those were obviously much fonder memories than others (!)

I left Downing in 2018 and started on HM Treasury's graduate programme. Since then it seems I've managed to time my tenure to coincide exactly with some of the most tumultuous periods in recent British politics. Brexit once dominated my role entirely and for my first six months I worked on contingency preparations ahead of a possible

---

"It's a well-worn cliché, but through the ups and downs of being at Cambridge, Downing really was home for four years."

no-deal Brexit in March 2019. We ploughed through thousands of pages of financial services legislation to ensure that the systems upon which we all rely, from debit card payments to pensions to the stock market, would continue to function whether we left the EU with a deal or not.

It's strange how circumstances can change so quickly. 2020 now seems set to be dominated by the fallout of the coronavirus pandemic. Again, we've seen huge cross-government mobilisation to respond to the health, social and economic crisis that this has presented. The economic and social interventions we've seen have highlighted a more human side to the Treasury's work than I think we're used to. Working on financial services policy, the real-world impacts of what I do sometimes feel quite distant. But I've seen first-hand the enormous role the Treasury has played across a huge spectrum of society, from the largest companies to the individual employee. It's been a huge challenge for lots of my colleagues, but it has been a real reminder of the human impact of policy making and really brings home why so many people are drawn to the profession in the first place.

Coronavirus will rightly dominate lots of the government's work for months to come, but we also have an eye to the future and what will be left for us to pick up when we return to some sort of normality. There is a huge amount of work going on across government to prepare for the UK hosting COP26, the annual UN climate change conference that has now been postponed to 2021. This is even the case in financial services and has meant I've actually been able to use some parts of my degree that I thought I had left behind years ago – I was never expecting to find myself in a Met Office lecture on

thermohaline circulation and its impact on climate change as a Treasury official! (I remembered embarrassingly little from those first-year lectures...)

Outside of work, my closest friends from my Downing days are a group of women that are all doing amazing things across lots of different professions. It seems like a long time ago that we met in Freshers' Week in 2014 and shared all the ups and downs of Cambridge together, which is a pretty strong bond to break! We're spread out across the country and having to do things a bit differently at the moment (I'm sure we're not the only ones that have done Zoom quizzes and brunches!) My boyfriend is also a Downing grad, which gives us double the excuse to go back and visit when we can! It's incredible to think that 40 years ago I wouldn't have been able to benefit from all that Downing has to offer. I'm very grateful to Simon for reaching out to me to write this account (there are plenty of other Downing women who could have written many more fascinating columns) and am so happy to share these pages with four decades of Downing women. I can't wait to see what future Downing women achieve – and to walk through the gates of Downing again when the time comes.

---

“It's incredible to think that 40 years ago I wouldn't have been able to benefit from all that Downing has to offer.”

# THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

We celebrate the contribution of four Fellows who have made a huge impact on College life

**A QUARTET OF FELLOWS** departing Downing this year are – thanks to coronavirus – experiencing an unexpectedly quiet leave-taking. “I was picking up some things a few days ago in order to work from home and College was deserted,” says Vice Master Dr Paul Millett. “Cow parsley popping up through the lawn – quite extraordinary.”



Paul Millett

But ‘quiet’ doesn’t mean leisurely. Senior Bursar Dr Susan Lintott was “planning on enjoying the relaxation of a year without a Ball – but that hasn’t happened. Instead we’ve had what the students have called ‘Lock-Downing’. Well, that was quite something, but unlocking Downing is going to be even more of a challenge.”

Nonetheless, it’s clear these two senior members of College remain undaunted. Dr Millett has been a Fellow for 37 years and Dr Lintott for 23 years. Together with Professor Bill Adams (Geography) and Dr Cathy Phillips (English) – who also leave this year after 36 and 32 years respectively – they have made an outstanding contribution to College life. Across the years they have seen – and spearheaded – extraordinary change, from the remarkable overhaul of Downing’s physical fabric, including showpiece projects such as the Caruso St John-designed Heong Gallery (opened 2016) and the Quinlan Terry-designed Howard Theatre (2010), to the transformational integration of women at the College.



**Susan Lintott**

"I particularly remember that," says Millett, of the latter milestone. "I was Admissions Tutor for a period and vividly recall one year looking at the admissions figures and realising that for the first time we were admitting more female than male undergraduates. I came straight down to the SCR to share the news."

Although Downing had had a couple of female Fellows, at the time Cathy Phillips joined there was only one other. But it was, she says, a positive experience from the outset.

"The Fellows were very supportive and open to having women tutors and hearing women's views in committees. I was quickly absorbed into the team." Adams, meanwhile, had been at Downing as an undergraduate ("I was Downing kitemarked," he says), then spent some years abroad and teaching elsewhere before returning to the College as a lecturer. Women's admission had occurred during his absence and it was, he says, "without doubt the biggest change" of his Downing decades.

Transformation doesn't just happen. While initiating change at a Cambridge College is very much a collective affair, guiding and steering it is the work of individuals. Adams points out how fortunate Downing has been in its Vice Master and Senior Bursar. "Paul [Millett] has the College engraved on his heart," he says, "and Susan [Lintott] has done so much to shape it – she's a really important figure in the history of the College."

Lintott's path to Downing was not an obvious one. After studying and lecturing in English, she enrolled at business school before joining Chase Manhattan Bank in 1983. It was, she says, "probably the most exciting time ever to be in finance". Lintott's speciality was "the leveraged buyout. It was all a bit Gordon Gekko." However, after a decade in banking, she wearied of being "the only woman in the room" and moved back to the UK.

By now a mother, she sought a role challenging enough for a Wall Street veteran, while also supportive of her family life – and found it at Downing. “When I arrived,” she recalls, “the College ledgers were kept by hand.” And the accounting processes were antiquated. “It was the 1926 accounting standard that Messrs Peat had designed for the University – like a very intelligent person reinventing the wheel. They didn’t have cashflow. They didn’t have consolidated income accounts.” All that changed on Lintott’s watch.

She and Millett were part of the senior team integral to the large-scale works that have transformed Downing over the past three decades. “We’ve not stopped building since I’ve been here,” recalls Millett. “The new library, two whole new courts – we are first rank in terms of College facilities and we have preserved our neoclassical tradition.” The

creation of beautiful spaces “is a virtuous circle”, explains Lintott. Downing’s fine study-bedrooms both enable students to flourish and are attractive to the corporate guests who flock to the College out of term time.

The sheer beauty of Downing is one of the fondest impressions of the departing Fellows. “Every morning when I cycle in, even if it’s raining, I think, ‘What an amazing place to work, such classical beauty,’” says Millett. Phillips says the highlight of her time at the College is “simply everyday life there. I have never lost a sense of how special it is to work in such lovely surroundings.”

And that exquisite architecture contains a community that all four Fellows cherish. “Downing is very collegiate,” Adams observes. “Open, relaxed, with easy relations between the professional staff who run the College and the Fellows and the students.”



Cathy Philips

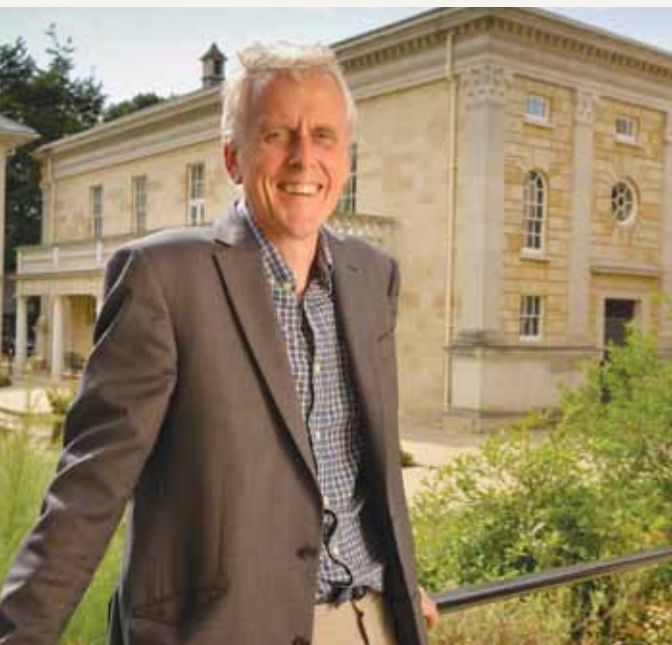
Millett, likewise, loves the “overlapping constituencies” of Fellowship, students and administration, saying he has “so enjoyed my interactions with the staff” – and offering as a prized memory a glorious moment during “the Staff v Fellows cricket match, 1984, when I bowled out the captain of the staff team, first ball, middle stump”.

For Lintott, Downing is quite literally a college “that invites people in, whether that’s into the Butterfield Café or the Heong Gallery, with its spectacular exhibitions of Ai Weiwei, Yoko Ono, Barbara Hepworth, and, next year, David Hockney. It’s so wide open and, of course, architecture does inform character.”

So it’s no surprise all our leavers look forward to continuing their relationship with the

College and seeing it flourish in the years to come. “I hope Downing continues to be a really well-balanced community, with a good range of subjects represented among the Fellowship and a good balance between graduates and undergraduates,” says Millett. Phillips trusts that the College will continue to “uphold the importance of making judgments that are fair and based on evidence and to foster a love of learning while taking on new things”. “We’ve made great steps around diversity,” says Adams, “and I’d love the College to be a leader in this in Cambridge.”

And Lintott? She’s confident her successor will inherit “a very strong management team” – but admits to just one regret. Despite all the construction and renovation, “there are just two of Downing’s houses I haven’t touched. So I never quite made the Monopoly set!”



**Bill Adams**





# The Downing Daffodil

**HOW DOES DOWNING** come to have its own, special daffodil cultivar? Special? Surely these (mainly) yellow flowers that follow snowdrops in heralding spring are more or less all the same? Not so! Surely again, you might protest, the College should be content with the mythical griffin as its link with nature? The Downing Daffodil (hereafter 'dc') and the griffin are both hybrids and though the plant has two quite similar parents and is triploid with three sets of chromosomes, it is still able to breed.

**PHOTO ABOVE: dc in full bloom**

Downing in the Spring by Serenydd  
Everden: Downing Alumni  
Photographic Competition 2018

The griffin is a *rara avis* in our time and with evolutionarily impossible, six-limbed anatomy does little for contemporary man and occurs mainly in heraldry. Daffodils and their close relatives, however, give great joy seasonally to generations and have inspired poets to wondrous words, as well as garden lovers throughout the world's temperate climates.

Through selective breeding there are now hundreds of daffodil cultivars that come in a range of anatomical classes, but with flower colours all based on white plus the yellow/orange xanthophyll pigments. New cultivars, once registered with the Royal Horticultural Society, are the subject of zealous daffodil collecting and flower-

showing societies in countries able to support bulbs that require a cool spring after a winter period for bulb regrowth and a flower initiation ‘vernalising’ period.

dc was ‘Seedling 589’ among genetically segregating offspring of a cross bred by the renowned expert Ron Scamp in Cornwall until selected in 2010 in Wales by the author for its potential to help mankind by utilising its unique chemistry. Having decided that our *alma mater* should also benefit it is now officially “*Narcissus pseudonarcissus* L. var. Downing College”. The variety is described by the Royal Horticultural Society as being in ‘Class 2 Y-Y’ by dint of its flower having a medium length trumpet and all-yellow outer perianth – the six bright flower parts comprised of three sepals and three petals. There are other registered varieties, with much the same description, but dc’s bold stature, it’s handsome image and the symmetry of the flower provide a pleasant bonus that will ensure its future in horticulture once the College releases it to fanciers. On horticultural merit alone it will spread rapidly around the world and publicise Downing.

There is more, for what makes dc outstanding is not just that it is currently unavailable in commerce, but that it has a unique chemical composition. All parts of the plant contain alkaloids – chemicals that occur in many herbaceous genera and in some woody species. Alkaloids, with the general formula  $C \times Hy \text{ NO}_3$ , have exceptional powers to affect animal physiology<sup>1</sup>. Readers will be familiar with nicotine, caffeine and cocaine – stimulants that are highly addictive. Equally well-known are the strong analgesics morphine

---

“The variety is described by the Royal Horticultural Society as being in ‘Class 2 Y-Y’ by dint of its flower having a medium length trumpet and all-yellow outer perianth – the six bright flower parts comprised of three sepals and three petals.”

and codeine extracted from the opium poppy and further modified artificially to make even more powerful and addictive derivatives such as heroin. Quinine is still a primary line of defence against the malaria parasite.

Members of the daffodil family (*Amaryllidaceae*), which also includes snowdrops and the snowflake among its estimated eighty species, synthesise a wide range of toxic alkaloids. These substances, which deter herbivorous, fungal and insect predators, make the group useless as a mammalian foodstuff. However, that characteristic has been harnessed in sustainable agronomic production of daffodil biomass in Wales by allowing sheep to graze between rows of post-flowering bulbs. Grass is sown in the autumn at bulb planting, thus effectively double cropping the land and significantly improving economics.

Even though largely inedible, snowdrops and their relatives have inspired folk medicine for millennia, though so far only one of their extracted alkaloids has been purified and pressed into widespread medical service.

---

<sup>1</sup> Manfred Hesse’s 2002 treatise “Alkaloids: Nature’s curse or blessing?” is a comprehensive source of reference.

Galanthamine (from *Galanthus*, the snowdrop) is in high demand and the snowdrop is now widely assumed to be the plant that according to Homeric legend saved Odysseus from the mental woes suffered by his shipmates on Circe's island. Because of shortage of plant raw material the bio-active molecule is costly to produce, but natural galanthamine is commercially important today. It is an important treatment for early and mid-stage Alzheimer's Dementia as it inhibits the nerve-damaging acetylcholinesterase enzyme.

Modern extraction of galanthamine from biomass requires many acid/base changes in solution followed by purification by solvent chromatography. Other daffodil alkaloids, known to analytical chemistry, but newer to bio-medical science, are obtained in the same way. Even when purified and standardised the time and cost of clinical and agronomic trials with any natural molecule is daunting. Additionally, their recommendation faces opposition from those pharmaceutical companies that favour creating patentable drugs to compensate for heavy research costs. Industry can synthesise galanthamine,

but the complex processes produce a racemic mixture of different versions of the molecule with chemical bonds of varying left or right-handedness. Nature is consistently left-handed in its biochemistry, so only a small proportion of the artificially created molecules is useful.

'Our' daffodil is not a 'one-trick pony'. Among its metabolites is haemanthamine, an antibacterial of which minute quantities of the pure, natural drug suppress the common methane-producing bacteria in ruminants which normally release huge tonnages of that 'greenhouse gas' into Earth's atmosphere. Haemanthamine offers a safer and more stable alternative to conventional veterinary antibiotics and it is possible to imagine how a few thousand hectares annually of dc could positively affect global warming – even if used only on, say, the beef lots in mid-USA.

Furthermore another, related compound, narciclasine, is in trials by oncologists. Cancer specialists have followed on from the use of *Narcissus poeticus* in folk medicine by ancient Greek physicians and found over a decade ago that narciclasine suppressed the growth of aggressive, inoperable gliomas in rodent brains. The drug is now deep into testing in human patients.

That is the background and there are doubtless many more research findings to come, but Downing is primarily an educational rather than a research establishment. It is intended that a future article will show how our daffodil can inspire students in almost all their chosen undergraduate and post-graduate courses. dc should be invaluable in DC's future.

**TREVOR WALKER (1956)**

---

"It is intended that a future article will show how our daffodil can inspire students in almost all their chosen undergraduate and post-graduate courses. dc should be invaluable in DC's future."



IN QUÆRERE VERUM  
COLL. DOWNING.  
FUNDAT. MDCCC



# COLLEGE NEWS

Senior Tutor's review	36
Assistant Bursar's report	38
Development Director's report	39
The Heong Gallery	41
Forthcoming events	43
Visiting Cambridge	43



## The Senior Tutor's review

**USUALLY AT THIS TIME** of year, when I sit down to write a review of the academic year that is coming to a close, there is a distinct pattern to the text. I have in front of me the full list of academic results of the students. I am able to review and report on the annual milestones: the academic, sporting and cultural achievements; the development of our educational provision, the notable events that have happened in the last 12 months.

However, this year has not followed the normal pattern. On Friday 13 March the regular twice termly intercollegiate meeting of Senior Tutors was held. The University had been – as the rest of the country – monitoring the reports of the novel virus and its potential impact. The prevailing concern had been that overseas students returning home at Easter might not be able to return for the exam term and how to handle a local, isolated, outbreak. Only a week or so earlier I had met with representatives of the JCR: I remember mentioning towards the end of the meeting that – to illustrate the range of contingencies being considered rather than as a serious possibility – that it was conceivable that examinations would be cancelled and that students would not come back into residence after Easter. As I spoke, I recall worrying that I was perhaps being overdramatic and unnecessarily alarmist.

It did not prove to be the case. During the course of that spring afternoon it became apparent that the modelling predicted that

the University would be in “red” mode by the start of the following term; and that consequently we would need to reduce our residential student body to as close to zero as possible in order to ensure the safety of those remaining. And thus also rethink, at speed, virtually all aspects of our education provision to allow for remote teaching and examination. Postgraduate students too would be unable to pursue their research in University premises.

The cascade of consequentials is still being felt across the College and University. Usually the Collegiate University makes decisions very slowly, with multiple layers of review, consultation and “stress testing”. This has clearly not been possible in the current climate. It has been thrilling to see how rapidly the organisation can move when needed. Due to the hard work of many colleagues and the flexibility and understanding of the student body, we have succeeded in delivering an alternative teaching and assessment regime. The feedback from both students and examiners about the rigour and fairness has been positive, despite the many challenges it has posed and the particular difficulties that some students have faced.

At the time of writing, we still do not have a full set of results, but it is clear that – where results have been classed (as they are for all finalists) – a greater proportion of students are graduating with first class honours and that there are some superlative individual performances. This





---

“The feedback from both students and examiners about the rigour and fairness has been positive, despite the many challenges it has posed and the particular difficulties that some students have faced.”

is to their eternal credit and we are looking forward to an opportunity to celebrate their achievement when circumstances allow.

Normal rites of passage have not taken place, but time passes nonetheless and this year marks significant departures from the Fellowship, including two of the senior leadership team. I have worked closely with Paul Millett since I was the junior to his senior Admissions Tutor. Paul kindly steered me through the pitfalls of the role and its responsibilities – but also ensured that we should “have some fun”. He’s been true to his word, both then and now as Vice Master. His calmness has kept the lid on so many potential problems over the years. Susan Lintott has

been the Senior Bursar since I was a Downing student. She has a better understanding of the College, far beyond the mere financial, than anyone else. In recent months we have been working especially closely and the College has been very lucky to have her experience and perspective. She certainly has not been going quietly! There are far too many instances of her care and attention to highlight any one anecdote. I will always remember that, in contrast to the stereotype, her devotion applies not only to the big strategic visions but also to the many individual student matters; it is both of these that the community is built on and Susan never forgets this. I will miss her good sense, her constructive criticism, and most of all her company.

The next academic year will pose many challenges relating to the pandemic, only some of which we fully understand (it will yet be a busy summer of planning). But there is also renewed urgency, in the light of the George Floyd murder, to also face persistent issues of structural racism in society and the College. We will address both the (hopefully relatively temporary) pandemic issues alongside these persistent injustices. I often close these reports with a message about continuity. This year it feels more a message of transformation: an exciting opportunity to take the best lessons from the challenges of the year. The College community – staff, Fellows and students – has started well.

**GUY WILLIAMS**

# Assistant Bursar's report

**USUALLY, I WRITE** these pieces sat at my desk in C1, looking out over the Quad. If I'm short of inspiration, I can just step outside and go and look at the things that have changed on the Domus during the last year. Writing in early June, it is just over two months since I last walked through the gates on Regent Street and the Head Porter assures me that they have remained closed to passers-by ever since. The College is still well cared for. A skeleton staff of porters, maintenance, catering and housekeeping have been looking after our remaining resident students and keeping a careful eye on safety and security. The lawns sprung wildflowers in late spring and with the exception of a neat strip mown around the edges have been allowed to establish a meadow (see one of the winning entries in the Association's Photographic Competition) alongside our newly resident foxes. They are now being joined by increasing numbers of contractors as we pick up on work in H and L staircases that was hastily closed down in March.

Recalling the Domus over the course of the year seems harder than usual. Generally, little appears to have changed on the surface, but there have been various changes behind the scenes. The East Lodge Garden has seen more than its fair share of the activity over the year. The Yoko Ono exhibition included ladders on the lawn that you either were, or weren't, supposed to climb depending on whom you talked to and the 'Divided Circle' sculpture by Barbara Hepworth took pride of position in a Caruso St John setting. Over the winter, another



---

“With the rest of the City still uncharacteristically still, within our newly re-wilded Quad green shoots still grow at Downing.”

of Downing's magnificent trees, the Blue Atlas Cedar, succumbed to illness. All its foliage had been removed when COVID-19 struck. Work stopped, leaving a stark silhouette at the entrance to the College. While the cedar tree has come an end, the Downing Daffodil, replanted in October by the Gardens and Grounds Team with the assistance of Professor Trevor Walker (see his article on page 31), who developed the species, has bloomed again on the Domus. We also welcomed back our Honorary Fellow and former Master, Professor Sir Dave King, as he established his Centre for Climate Solutions in the East Range. With the rest of the city still uncharacteristically still, within our newly re-wilded Quad, green shoots still grow at Downing.

**ROB BEARDWELL**

# Development Director's report

**AS I LOOK BACK** on this academic year, it is disorientating to recall a time when we met and travelled freely, to the present time of virtual events and online meetings. Within weeks of the lockdown, we pivoted from planning a special weekend around 40 Years of Women at Downing, an MA dinner and graduation celebrations, alumni reunions and donor events; to cancelling all events and working remotely from home. Whilst this has been a huge disappointment to us all, we are grateful to our alumni for your understanding during these times. I hope that we can focus on the good news from this past year and look forward to when we can meet again.

Highlights from our alumni events this year include an alumni panel debating 'The Economics of Uncertainty' chaired by the Master and hosted by **Robert Devereux (1975)** at the Conduit Club in London. The panel shared their predictions on the potential



---

“I hope that we can focus on the good news from this past year and look forward to when we can meet again.”

impact on the economy of Brexit amongst other domestic and international events, but which did not include a worldwide pandemic! Earlier this year, former Master Sir Dave King and Claire Perry O'Neill discussed obstacles and proposed solutions to tackle the climate crisis before an audience in the Howard Theatre. Downing is the first Cambridge College to host a dedicated Centre for Climate Solutions, headed by Sir Dave King working with Dr Ellie Standon and supported by donations to advance research and provide summer internships for Downing students.

The Master and Fellows welcomed **Christopher Harborne (1981)** as a Wilkins Fellow in November, following his gift to the Everitt-Butterfield Fellowship in Biological and Biomedical Sciences. The Oon Fellowship in Medicine was awarded to Dr Tim Burton, enhancing the Oon programme of support to medical teaching, research and studentships. The Darley Studentship for research into ageing has been established, thanks to **Julian Darley (1956)** and his wife Helga Sands, in addition to the Darley Fellowship held by the Senior Tutor, Dr Guy Williams. Many alumni supported the John Hopkins Fund over the year, which now exceeds £300,000 in donations to enhance supervisions and the tutorial system.



As the College faces severe and unexpected financial challenges this year and beyond, we are particularly grateful to our alumni who have made unrestricted gifts, which provide the flexibility to direct funds where they are needed most and plan for difficult times ahead. In response to the pandemic, **Humphrey Battcock (1973)** made a significant gift to provide enhanced support to student

---

“As the College faces severe and unexpected financial challenges this year and beyond, we are particularly grateful to our alumni who have made unrestricted gifts...”

wellbeing. If you are considering your first gift to our Student Support Fund, the Harding Challenge might be of interest as every £1 donated is matched by an additional £4.59, making the overall benefit of the gift to students £5.59. Please contact [development@dow.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@dow.cam.ac.uk) for more information. Membership of the 1749 Society, which honours those who have pledged a legacy to College is at 338. Thank you to all our alumni who have considered a bequest, which makes an immeasurable difference to Downing. I would like to reassure members that Dr Paul Millett will continue in his role as President of the Society beyond his formal retirement.

We have extended our celebrations around 40 Years of Women into 2021 and look forward to when we can host alumni events in person again. In the meantime, look out for more virtual events, follow the College on social media and continue to send us your news which we always enjoy reading.

**JO FINNIE JONES**

# The Heong Gallery

## ART IN A TIME OF CRISIS

**WHEN THE HEONG GALLERY** played host to sculptures and prints by Dame Barbara Hepworth in *Divided Circle*, we had little idea of what was about to unfold over the coming months. This winter exhibition comprised little-known works, which charted the artists' fascination with dual and pierced forms in the last decade of her life. Marble and bronze shared the space with gold and aluminium in a meditation on the materials, influences, and methods of the Modern British genius.

“Marble and bronze shared the space with gold and aluminium in a meditation on the materials, influences, and methods of the Modern British genius.”

The Heong Gallery closed on Wednesday 18 March 2020 in line with advice on combatting the spread of COVID-19 – only 12 days after our new exhibition *We Are Here: Women In Art At Cambridge Colleges* opened its doors to visitors. The



**The Divided Circle exhibition**

Photograph by Jo Underhill

exhibition brought together works by and of women from College art collections across Cambridge. As we all stayed home, the exhibition began a new life online in the Gallery blog ([www.theheonggallery.wordpress.com](http://www.theheonggallery.wordpress.com)). We explored the life and times of Lady Margaret Downing, the subject of a portrait by Thomas Gainsborough, a jewel in Downing's art collection. We spoke to women artists in in-depth interviews exploring their intersections with Cambridge. Every week, we offered a new family art activity, to engage creatively with the many families who could no longer visit us.

The lockdown has also helped us reimagine what the Gallery is and does for students. We heard from one student who will have completed her degree at Cambridge this summer, without the

---

"The exhibition brought together works by and of women from college art collections across Cambridge. As we all stayed home, the exhibition began a new life online in the Gallery blog..."



usual celebrations. She wrote: "I had been meaning to email you to say thank you so much for the opportunity to work in the Gallery. I appreciated it so much, both as an extra source of income and a way of learning much more about the entire process of planning, hanging and running an exhibition. I really enjoyed my shifts and all the people I met whilst working there, both visitors and fellow assistants. The best part for me was the Hepworth Day and seeing so many families really engaging and interacting with the art – I'm off to train as a French and Spanish teacher next and the little encounters with kids in the gallery always really made my day. It was so lovely to have enough time, the right-sized space and accessible materials to help curious children enjoy the exhibitions in a way a bigger gallery wouldn't have been able to. It has been a real pleasure working with you!"

**PRERONA PRASAD**

Exhibitions and Programming Manager

When permitted the Heong Gallery is open  
Wednesday to Sunday 10pm–5pm



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

At the time of publication it is not known when events in College will recommence.

Full details and online booking will be posted as they become available on

[www.dow.cam.ac.uk/people/alumni-and-development](http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/people/alumni-and-development)

---

## VISITING CAMBRIDGE

### Visiting Downing

Former undergraduates or graduates at Downing are most welcome to visit the College. However, until all restrictions on access to the College have been lifted, it is advisable to contact the Porters' Lodge on 01223 334800. Limited parking is available.

---

### Alumni benefits

For details of alumni benefits, including dining and staying in College, and the benefits of holding a CAMCard, including free access to other Colleges, please visit [www.dow.cam.ac.uk/people/alumni-and-development/benefits](http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/people/alumni-and-development/benefits)

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

### Accessibility

While many of the older College rooms are not easy to access, those with mobility issues 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.







# ASSOCIATION NEWS

President's review	46
Photographic competition	48
Alumni Student Fund	52
Glynn Jones Scholarships for Business and Management Education	53
The Association	54



# President's review

---

"I think it is true to say that fear is more dangerous than the virus itself, and Downing, like all other Colleges, is doing what it can to face down such fear and deal with this unprecedented series of events."

**FOR THE SAKE** of future generations who might well refer to this *Magazine* in years to come, I am bound to start by mentioning the extraordinary changes in College life, University life and society at large that we have seen in the first few months of this the Year of our Lord 2020. At the end of last year a previously unknown virus, now named COVID-19, appeared in the city of Wuhan (pop. 11 million), China. As I write in early spring, it has now affected the population of almost every country on the planet, driving many into lockdown and threatening to overwhelm even the strongest of health services. It might sound like science fiction, but it is more akin to Daniel Defoe's *Journal of the Plague Year*. Every day brings a recital of the number of those who have succumbed in the previous 24 hours. City streets are deserted, few are travelling, the skies are clear of pollution and you can hear again birdsong untainted by the noise of traffic. It is as if Gaia had decided enough was enough and that if mankind found itself incapable of dealing with

the problem of global warming, it would act on its own out of sheer self-preservation.

I think it is true to say that fear is more dangerous than the virus itself, and Downing, like all other Colleges, is doing what it can to face down such fear and deal with this unprecedented series of events. A handful of students remain on the Domus, but most have gone home where, thanks to quite recent advances in technology, they can access lectures and supervisions on-line. Examinations will also take place on-line. Graduation ceremonies will be postponed. There are those who predict that life will never be the same again and that we shall increasingly relate to each other in a virtual universe, but human beings are social creatures and I suspect that once we are through the worse and a vaccine is developed, Collegiate life will seem more precious than ever before and students will eventually return to the physical reality that is Downing with a renewed sense of thankfulness and awe.

And there is much to remain thankful for. Others in this *Magazine* will draw attention to a particular milestone in the history of the College, the first admission of women 40 years ago. Looking back, it is clearly a high point of sanity and good fortune, bracketed as it now is by the Second World War at one end and the Year of the Virus at the other. Since I matriculated in 1965, I have



**Richard Bowring wearing the new President's medallion**

certain regrets that my own undergraduate years were restricted to a male environment, which was not always as civilized as one might have hoped.

This year will also see the retirement of four people who have been prominent in the life of the College: the Vice Master, Paul Millett, Bill Adams, Cathy Philips and the Bursar, Susan Lintott. The Bursar has overseen a remarkable growth in the College's fortunes, both in terms of finance and the built environment. The Vice Master, Bill Adams and Cathy Philips have dedicated themselves to the life of College in multiple roles. I admit that the one small fear I have for the future is that the number of Fellows who are willing to put such time and effort into the life of the community (undoubtedly at the expense of their own academic careers) is on the wane.

---

“Since I matriculated in 1965, I have certain regrets that my own undergraduate years were restricted to a male environment, which was not always as civilized as one might have hoped.”

Sadly, this year we have said good-bye to John Hicks and Frank Weiss, both of whom devoted themselves to the wellbeing of the Association and its committees over many years; the Association is greatly indebted to both men. During John's 12-year term as Secretary, he led the Association with great skill, significantly improving the quality of the *Newsletter* and skilfully working to blend the activities of Association with those of the newly formed College Development Office. Frank used his retail experience to set up and develop the Association's substantial merchandising activities which over the years have raised tens of thousands of pounds to support students through the Alumni Student Fund. Their obituaries appear later in the *Magazine*.

While it is not possible to hold the Annual Dinner at the end of September, it is hoped that many of us will be able to meet online. At the same time the Executive Committee continues to build its own on-line presence, creates plans for the future and discusses ways of retaining that sense of belonging for all alumni. What is it they say? You can take the student out of Downing but....

**RICHARD BOWRING (1965)**

## Downing Alumni Association

# PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

---

**THE COMPETITION** theme was “Downing in isolation and from afar”. The chosen theme reflected the unprecedented circumstances in which the Downing community found itself in the spring of 2020 and the fact that most students would not be able to be physically present in College during the Easter term. By choosing this topic the Association hoped that there would be a lasting photographic record of this extraordinary period in the life of the College and its students. It was up to the entrants to use their skill and creativity in interpreting the theme by “Thinking outside the box”.

The judges were Professor Richard Bowring (1965) (President of the Alumni Association), Professor Chris Haniff (Fellow in Physics), Vicki Ambery-Smith (designer and wife of the Master) and Neville Tait (1962) (Associate Fellow Emeritus and competition organiser). Keeping score and ensuring fair play was the Association Secretary, Simon Walker (1975).

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 disappointingly small entry this year, however the images submitted were generally of a good standard and all authors made a brave attempt at meeting the rather difficult brief.

The judges were very much at one in selecting the top few entries, but choosing between first and second proved impossible and so it was decided to Award two ‘Joint Firsts’. Congratulations therefore to joint winners Cerys Whiles for her entry titled “I’ve grown out of my Stripes” and to Nathan Parker for his “Coffee Time”. Highly Commended certificates were awarded to Nikki Payne for “Lockdown(ing)” and to Muhammad Zaki Arshad for “Through the looking glass” and a Commended to Nathan Parker for his “Desktop Downing”.

---

“By choosing this topic the Association hoped that there would be a lasting photographic record of this extraordinary period in the life of the College and its students.”



## PRIZE WINNERS



### 1st equal

#### **I've Grown out of my Stripes: Cerys Whiles**

This monochrome image was of a distant view of the Chapel, taken from the Paddock, highlighting the long blades of unmown grass and with an atmospheric cloudy sky. The judges felt that this beautifully encapsulated the sense of benign neglect and emptiness of the College in isolation.



## 1st equal

### Coffee Time: Nathan Parker

By coincidence this was also a monochrome image which concentrated on the 'Downing from Afar' section of the theme with its image of a nicely grained desk on which rested a cup of coffee and an open two-page panoramic photograph of the East Range from the book *A Classical Adventure*.

## Highly Commended



### Lockdown(ing):

**Nikki Payne**

The low sun in this image gives a wonderful glow to the foliage of the trees and produces strong diagonal shadows of their trunks in the foreground.

### Through the Looking Glass:

**Muhammand Zaki Arshad**

This view, taken from inside a room looking out over the College grounds through a half open glazed window where the glazing bars give a slightly prison-like impression.



## Commended

### Desktop Downing: Nathan Parker

Another posed image by Nathan, this time in colour, of the same desk as featured in 'Coffee Time', with the coffee cup and book, but in addition two computer screens showing different lockdown-related Downing web pages (see page 4).

# ALUMNI STUDENT FUND

**SET UP IN 2005**, the Alumni Student Fund provides grants to help students facing hardship meet some of their day-to-day financial pressures. As such, it is a real and immediate way in which alumni can, through the Association, make a significant difference to the lives of current students. The Fund is supported primarily by profits from sales of merchandise generated both at events and online, thanks to the efforts of volunteers from the Association. Downing-related items for sale range from ties and socks to artwork and engraved glassware.

The Association is also fortunate to have benefitted from the generosity of two renowned artists, alumnus Sir Quentin Blake and internationally known silversmith, Vicki Ambery-Smith, who have both created exclusive designs for sale in support of the Fund. Recent additions, including Sir Quentin's signed limited edition griffin print and Vicki's hand-finished silver cufflinks pictured here, will soon be joined by Vicki's silk scarf commemorating the 40th anniversary of the admission of women.

All these items and more  
are available via the  
Downing Gifts website at  
[www.downing-gifts.com](http://www.downing-gifts.com)



The Fund provides grants which are normally between £50 and £250, but can occasionally be as much as £500. This year 48 students have been helped with grants totaling £6,522, lower than usual owing to COVID-19. Most grants are for books, computer equipment, attendance at a language course 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. All grants are approved by Tutors who regard the support which the Fund gives to students as extremely important.

In addition to sales, donations to the Fund are also welcomed. If you would like to make a donation of up to £1,000, please contact the Honorary Secretary. If you wish to make larger donations, please contact the Development Office who will be able to advise you of similar funds that have been established to which donations might be made on a tax efficient basis.



## Glynn Jones Scholarships for Business and Management Education

**MEMBERS OF DOWNING COLLEGE** are eligible to apply for Glynn Jones Scholarships for those wishing to further their education for careers in the business and management fields. 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 course fees, travel costs and maintenance expenses. The financial resources of the applicant will also be taken into consideration.

For further information about the awards and application process see [www.dow.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/glynn\\_jones\\_scholarship\\_information.pdf](http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/glynn_jones_scholarship_information.pdf)



# The Association

**THE ASSOCIATION'S ROLE** is to facilitate contact between alumni and to disseminate information about the College and its members. The Editor is always pleased to receive information or articles for publication, either in the form of a short biographical note or a fuller, reflective article on your career. Details of awards, honours, appointments, publications, performances, marriages and births can be found in *Magenta News*. Please do come to events organised by the Development Office and if you are thinking about organising a reunion – the Development Office will be pleased to advise.



**You can contact the Association 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)

The members of the Association's Executive Committee, the Rules of the Association, the Draft Minutes of the 2019 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 by logging in and using the Development Office link [www.downingcambridge.com/magenta-news](http://www.downingcambridge.com/magenta-news)

The Development Office website, for College events, is [www.dow.cam.ac.uk/people/alumni-and-development](http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/people/alumni-and-development)

---

“The Editor is always pleased to receive information or articles for publication, either in the form of a short biographical note or a fuller, reflective article on your career.”





## John Hicks MA, FREng

7 April 1936 – 21 October 2019

---

Secretary to the Association  
1998–2010

President of the Association  
2011–2012

Life Vice-President  
2013–2019

Fellow Commoner of  
Downing College 1999–2011

Emeritus Fellow Commoner of  
Downing College 2011–2019





# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Obituaries	58
New Fellows	64
Reports from Fellows	67

# Obituaries

**JOHN MOSS ARMSON**, Chaplain and Fellow from 1969–73, died on 12 April 2020, aged 80.

John Armson was a graduate of Selwyn College, matriculating in 1958 and gained a PhD from St Andrews University in 1965. He trained for the ministry at Mirfield in West Yorkshire before being ordained to the priesthood in 1967. He served his curacy at Notting Hill in London, prior to arrival as Chaplain at Downing. Here he was the first to develop the practice of celebrating the Eucharist in student rooms and sets.

After four years at Downing Revd. Armson relocated to become Chaplain and later Vice Principal, at Westcott House, Cambridge, before moving to Edinburgh in 1982. There he worked as Principal of the Theological College and Canon of St Mary's Cathedral, until 1989. Then, until his retirement in 2001, he served as a Canon Residentiary of Rochester Cathedral. He moved to Suffolk and spent two years as Chaplain to the Hengrave Ecumenical Community. His death, on Easter Day, in a residential home in Old Dalby, Leicestershire, was peaceful.

## THE FELLOWSHIP

---

Details of members of the Fellowship, College Lecturers and College Teaching Associates can be found at [www.dow.cam.ac.uk/people/fellows-directory](http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/people/fellows-directory)

Details of Directors of Studies can be found at [www.dow.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate-study/study-downing/directors-studies](http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate-study/study-downing/directors-studies)

**IAN ALFRED BUCKLOW** died on 15 June 2019, aged 95.

Born in Manchester, Ian Bucklow volunteered for military service on leaving school, was mobilised in April 1944 and commissioned at the end of 1945. He served for two years in the General Duties Branch of the RAF Volunteer Reserve, which included flying Spitfires.

He arrived in Cambridge (Fitzwilliam College) in 1948 to read Natural Sciences and stayed on after graduation for a PhD in metallurgical electrochemistry (awarded in 1956). After working for ICI Metals Division, he returned to Cambridge to set up a small company: Metals Research Ltd., where he worked as Research Director. Ian was then a lecturer at the Engineering Department, whilst continuing research, before becoming Head of Surface Technology at The Welding Institute. Following retirement, he continued work as a visiting scientist in the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy, assisted with the running of practical courses in the Engineering Department and supervised in Engineering Materials for various colleges. His energy and enthusiasm never flagged! Those who worked with him recognised his vast knowledge and ability: “the man who has an answer to every engineering question”.

Ian was a long-standing and greatly valued supervisor for Downing and latterly a Bye-Fellow. He enjoyed College life and would encourage others to join him at high table, where he was an entertaining dining companion. It was his custom, for General Admissions, of attending the Senate House to meet and congratulate his pupils, that prompted the now-established Downing custom of walking down to the Senate House with those graduating. He kept on teaching and was still greatly appreciated as a supervisor, right up until his final illness.

Flying became a much-enjoyed hobby for Ian later in life and he would take-off from Bourne and from Peterborough airfields, to visit friends elsewhere. He was most disappointed that, on turning 90 years old, he was no longer allowed to fly solo. As a 90th birthday present he took a helicopter flight: “harder to fly than a Spitfire but easier to land!” Ian remained as sharp as ever and maintained his excellent sense of humour until the end.



**CHARLES PORTER ELLINGTON** died on 30 July 2019, aged 66.

© R J Wootton



Charlie was an outstanding scientist, an inspirational teacher and an immensely valued colleague and friend to many. As Director of Studies for Biological Natural Sciences at Downing, he supported and influenced a generation of students, who will remember him fondly. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society of London in 1998 and was elected Professor of Animal Mechanics in the Department of Zoology in 1999.

Born in 1952, Charlie graduated from Duke University, North Carolina, where he first encountered the field of biomechanics. In 1972 he was awarded a Churchill Scholarship for PhD study here at Cambridge and he began his career-long work on insect flight. His PhD dissertation has been described as ‘remarkable’: using a high-speed camera and novel analysis techniques, he studied a range of insects in flight (including hoverflies, ladybirds, bumblebees and honeybees). His was the first application of vortex theory to explain lift and motion associated with flapping wings and the resultant huge body of work: “The Aerodynamics of Hovering Insect Flight” was published in six parts in Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London in 1984.

Described as one of the most influential biomechanicists of the past 40 years, Charlie had immense impact upon his field. He combined theoretical insight with technical ingenuity and is credited with revolutionising the understanding of insect flight and the aerodynamics of hovering. He described his approach as heretical, demonstrating that conventional theories did not work. Improved models were developed by filming flight in a smoke trail to visualize the airflow over wings and the shedding of vortices to generate lift. The combination of aerodynamic analysis with physiological measurements (for example, measuring the oxygen consumption of a single bumblebee in free flight, over a range of speeds!), led to an entirely new theoretical framework. He was awarded the prestigious Scientific Medal of the Zoological Society in 1990.

A flapping robot was built: a scaled-up / slowed-down model which emulated the wings of a hovering hawkmoth. “The Mechanical Flapper” made its first public appearance at the Royal Society Soirees in 1991 and, noting that these events were formal occasions, it was wearing a bow tie (see photograph)! In 1996, work published in *Nature* led to public recognition and interviews on US television networks.

Charlie was an influential Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Experimental Biology* from 1989 to 1994. And, besides his ground-breaking research, he was



an excellent and well-respected teacher. He was awarded a Pilkington Prize for Teaching by the University in 2007, which recognized his invaluable contribution to undergraduate teaching in the Zoology Department over many years. His lectures were inspiring and he promoted mathematical biology and advanced quantitative physiology, through making the subjects understandable and entertaining. His development of the 1st year Natural Sciences Quantitative Biology course influenced and contributed very significantly to the education of many students.

Charlie and Stephanie married in 1977. With two sons, Matt and Nick, they lived in an idyllic cottage in Woodditton, near Newmarket. Health issues contributed to Charlie's early retirement in 2010 and a Symposium in his honour: "Animal Flight Mechanics & Muscle Performance", was organised in Cambridge and attended by his many friends, former students and colleagues from around the world.

Even during his poor health, Charlie had an infectious enthusiasm and zest for life. He was a highly committed member of the Governing Body. He was never fearful of expressing firmly held views, but was always open to persuasion – and to persuading others – through debate. He served the College in numerous roles during the tenure of his Fellowship and made a most moving and emotional statement to the Governing Body when announcing his reluctant decision to resign his Fellowship because ill health prevented him from contributing in the way and to the extent he would like. This straightforwardness and honesty was the very essence of Charlie.

---

**ALAN HOWARD** died on 24 June 2020, aged 91.



Dr Howard attended the City of Norwich School and matriculated at Downing in 1948 to read Natural Sciences, graduating in 1951 and gaining his PhD in 1955. He pursued a successful research career, was elected to a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Chemistry in 1968 and continued working at the University until 1992. Following work on atherosclerosis and obesity, he became secretary to the newly formed Obesity Association in 1967. From 1973–79, he worked with

others to turn research on helping morbidly obese patients into a product for the public which became the Cambridge Diet, launched in 1980. Dr Howard founded the Howard Foundation in 1982 and in 1984 formed the Cambridge Manufacturing Company to market the Cambridge Diet. The business was sold in 2005.

In 1995, Dr Howard began research into macular degeneration and the importance of carotenoids. This led to work with Dr John Nolan and the funding of research at the Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) in Ireland and a recent UK patent on nutritional supplements to reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease. He was awarded Honorary Fellowships from The University of Ulster and, in October 2019, from WIT in recognition of this work.

The Howard Foundation funded Howard Lodge, Howard Building (featured on the front cover) and most recently the Howard Theatre, which form Howard Court. The Foundation has also responded to the College's urgent needs, including the Mays Wild Fellowship, the Hopkins Parry Fellowship, the Heong Gallery and Downing Arts, student support and the College's landscaping projects. The Foundation also commissioned and funded *A Classical Adventure*, a history of Downing, its architecture and donors. These gifts, inspired by Dr Howard and his son, Jon (Downing 1974), have transformed the College in many areas, most notably in the professional level theatre and conference facilities that support a thriving arts programme and the conference business, which underpins the College's finances. To recognise his outstanding contribution to Downing, Dr Howard was elected to an Honorary Fellowship and in 1999 to the first Wilkins Fellowship. In 2009 he was awarded the Chancellor's 800th Anniversary Medal for outstanding philanthropy, presented by Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace.

Alan is survived by his wife Lydia, Jon and Julie, who continue the family's close relationship with College. The following reflections have been provided by Jon and Julie:

Following our father's death, we have been going over his papers. We discovered a letter that was sent to our father from Frank Wild, then Senior Tutor, from the summer of 1948, offering him a place to read Natural Sciences that Michaelmas term. We also found the "passport" for him and his bicycle entering France on 4 August 1948 for a long ride down to the Mediterranean, before coming up to start his first term at Downing. That summer and autumn established for him a love of three things: for the south of France, for Downing and for science!

He never forgot the allure of the Cote d'Azur and returned there over a half a century later to holiday and that is where he died, cared for by his second wife Lydia, in his apartment overlooking the palms of the Croisette.

He remembered Downing, when after over thirty years of study, dining and friendship, he was able to endow through his charitable Foundation the first of what would become the three classical Howard buildings given to the College.

He was thrilled to be invited to be President of the Downing Association for the year 1996–97. His President's speech ranged from the memories of University Chess Club to Downing alumni who had become very successful in their native Malaysia and Singapore, which he had just visited thanks to the success of the Cambridge Diet. He followed the development of the College closely and as late as last summer made his views known about future building plans in the Domus!

He was a scientific researcher over many fields, a real polymath. We have received many tributes from former students and junior researchers who he had mentored. Professor Roger Harris said “What impressed me most was the skilful way your father could blend together commerce and innovation with advanced clinical and nutritional science and still find the time to give back so much fun to the rest of us. For me your father was a scientist of the old school who gave out far more than he took in and was one of three mentors who greatly influenced my own career path.”

He enjoyed participating in College and University events: from being a regular at High Table which gave him the opportunity to meet like-minded people for intellectual and stimulating conversation, to the 1749 Society garden parties. For many years he regularly attended the University’s Benefactors’ Ceremonies, of which he was effectively a founding member in the 90s.

He was delighted when cultural and scientific organisations hired the Howard Theatre and other College buildings to hold their events – over the years the subjects ranged from Obesity to Climate Change, Creatine to Age-related Macular Degeneration. Concerts were held in the Theatre, some of which were sponsored through the Howard Foundation. His last attendance in the Theatre was a performance by Cambridge Summer Music in July 2019, which doubled as a 90th birthday celebration for him there.

---

**ALEX MORRIS** died on 6 October 2019.

Alex was a well-respected and much appreciated Director of Studies for Economics at Downing and a Bye-Fellow. She had similar roles at Newnham and St. Edmunds Colleges and was a senior member of Robinson College. She also supervised statistics, epidemiology and the social context and demographics of health and illness for, amongst others, vets and medics at a range of colleges. A dedicated teacher, she was deeply committed to her work and also very much involved in College life and the community.

Alex’s first degree, in Economics, from Warwick University was followed by a PhD at the London School of Economics. She subsequently took on research and teaching in London, before moving to Cambridge in 1990, working at the Department of Community Medicine and subsequently the Cambridge Institute of Public Health. Alex was working on economics and ethics in relation to public health and the provision of social care, often focusing on the causes of inequality. This led to her involvement with community, environment and housing programmes and input to local and central government policy. She was one of the founders and trustees of several important local charities which support those with learning difficulties and others needing social care. Alex was genuinely committed to using her knowledge and expertise to help others.

# New Fellows

**ROBERT HOYE** joined the College in October

as the first Kim and Julianna Silverman

Research Fellow. His research field is

in Materials Science and focuses on

the development of semiconductors

for applications in optoelectronics:

devices which can convert energy

between light and electricity. These

include solar cells (for clean power

production) and light-emitting

diodes (for next-generation ultrahigh

definition displays). In particular, he

focuses on developing semiconductors

that can tolerate imperfections to

achieve high performance when grown by

low-cost methods at low temperature. Beyond

research, Robert supervises the Materials Science IB

students at Downing. He has worked with the Royal Academy of Engineering (where

he is also a Research Fellow) to create a resource to encourage

secondary students to pursue a career in Engineering. In

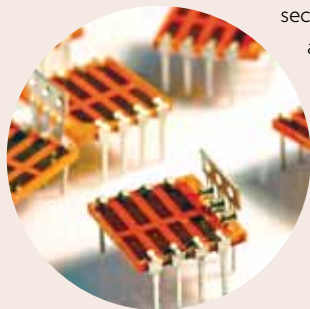
addition, he has worked with the Deutsches-Hygiene

Museum in Dresden, Germany, preparing an

exhibit on bismuth oxyiodide solar cells for the

general public. Rob will leave us this year for

Imperial College, London and we wish him well.



**Bismuth oxyiodide solar cells**

---

“One topic she hopes to increasingly focus on is that of agri-robotics, to better understand how agronomy, plant science and robotics can come together to improve outcomes.”



**JOSIE HUGHES** has joined the College as the Mays-Wild Fellow. Her current research focuses on the development and integration of robotic technologies to enable increasing functionalities and also to use robots as tools to understand physical phenomena. Recent work and publications have focused on new sensing technologies and computational reconstruction methods and also the understanding of medical and physical phenomena through large-scale robotic experiments. One topic she hopes to increasingly focus on is that of agri-robotics, to better understand how agronomy, plant science and robotics can come together to improve outcomes. Alongside her research, she hopes to contribute to college and department teaching in Engineering.

#### **Lettuce harvesting**

---

**FRISBEE SHEFFIELD** became a University Lecturer in Classics and a Fellow and Director of Studies at Downing College, from October 2019. She was an undergraduate at Bristol University, an MPhil student at Cambridge University and studied for her DPhil at Oxford. This was followed by a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in Classics, at the Institute of Hellenic and Roman Studies, Bristol University and a Research Fellowship at Girton College, Cambridge.

Frisbee's research interests include ancient philosophy (particularly ethics), moral psychology, aesthetics, politics and the reception of ancient Greek philosophy, particularly in the work of Hannah Arendt. She has appeared in podcasts (e.g. *Plato's Erotic Dialogues*, in the series *The History of Philosophy*



without the Gaps, King's College London, May 2011) and radio broadcasts, as a contributor to BBC Radio 4's *In our Time* programme on *Plato's Symposium* (2014) and on *Hannah Arendt* (2017). Her recent work has been on Hannah Arendt, particularly her engagement with the Greeks and, in 2019, this was published as: *The Greek Philosophers against Arendt*, in the *Journal of the History of Political Thought*. A book on Plato's *Phaedrus* is currently in preparation.

She is an Associate Editor at the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* and Ancient Philosophy Editor of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* online.

---

"Her recent work has been on Hannah Arendt, particularly her engagement with the Greeks..."

---

**JOSEPH WEBSTER** is Lecturer in the Study of Religion in the University and Fellow and Director of Studies in Anthropology at Downing. His primary research interest concerns the Anthropology of Religion, with a particular focus on Protestantism in Scotland and the global north. *The Anthropology of Protestantism* (2013) was his first monograph and is an ethnography of apocalyptic sign searching within an Exclusive Brethren fishing community in Northeast Scotland. His second, *The Religion of Orange Politics* (2020), is an ethnographic account of ethno-religious nationalism within the Orange Order, Scotland's largest Protestant-only fraternity. Specific research interests also include personhood, fraternity and hate; sectarianism, football fandom and debates about free speech; and the relationship between Anthropology and Theology.



Connected to his research on ethno-religious nationalism, Joe has undertaken work on the *Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act*, 2012. He acted as an expert witness to the Scottish Parliament Justice Committee, giving evidence in support of repeal. This aspect of his research has been profiled in the media, including *The Times*, *The Scotsman*, *The Herald*, *The Sun*, and *Express* newspapers, as well as on STV's *Scotland Tonight*.



# Reports from Fellows

**BILL ADAMS**, Moran Professor of Conservation and Development, finally saw the fourth edition of his book *Green Development: Environment and Sustainability in a Developing World* published in January 2020 by Routledge. The book he has been writing with Kent Redford, *Strange Natures: Conservation in the Era of Genome Editing*, is due out with Yale University Press in spring 2021.



**ZOE BARBER** has been pleased to see research from a recent major European Horizon 2020 project reaching publication (in *Nanoscale Advances*, *Applied Surface Science*, and *Journal of Applied Physics*, amongst others). These represent valuable (and very enjoyable!) collaborations with, for example, the National Institute for Metrological Research in Torino, Italy; Bielefeld University in Germany; the Leibniz Institute for Solid State and Materials Research, Dresden;

and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; on magneto-strictive thin films, antiferromagnetic layers for spintronics, biocompatible device materials and shape memory metals.

Zoe edited the Proceedings of last year's European Materials Research Society conference symposium on Nanoscale Multifunctional Oxide Films, published as a special issue of *Thin Solid Films*, a journal for which she is Associate Editor. Unfortunately travel opportunities have been fewer this year and she has become very familiar with European Research Council meetings taking place at home, via Zoom, rather than in central Brussels.

---

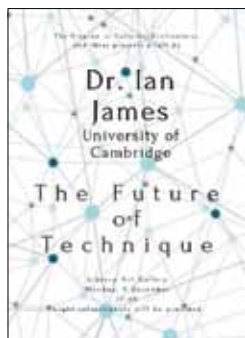
**C. FLEMMING HEILMANN**, Wilkins Fellow, has followed his earlier memoirs: *Odyssey Uncharted – a World War II Childhood Adventure and Education Wrapped in mid-20th Century History*, with details of his life and career across several continents and many decades, in *The Unacceptable Face*. The book charts his encounters with apartheid, socialism and iterations of capitalism on three continents during a career challenged by corporate and national politics. Some foes are engaged, others sidestepped. Immersion in disparate cultures spawns evolving beliefs and priorities, not always politically correct, just as traditional preconceptions are debunked.

**ANDREW HOLDING** is leaving Cambridge to work in the Department of Biology at the University of York, where he will be establishing his independent research laboratory. His work continues to focus on understanding the role of steroid hormones in cancer progression. He hopes to keep in touch with his many collaborators at the University of Cambridge and thanks Downing for being a welcoming environment for him as an early career researcher.

---

**IAN JAMES** was a keynote speaker at a conference at King Charles University, Prague, in September 2019: *Narrativity and Self-Creating Forms: Autopoiesis in Perspective*. In December he was invited to speak on *The Future of Technique* at the University of Bilkent in Ankara, Turkey, as part of their *Program in Cultures, Civilisations, and Ideas*.

Ian's book, *The Technique of Thought*, published in February 2019, has received first-rate reviews: "This book is a tour de force: it remains faithful to the thought of the theorists studied while putting forward its own distinct philosophy. It also brings together philosophy and science in ways that have been lacking in contemporary continental thought." It has also appeared on



the University of Minnesota Press's list of 'Books for understanding our complicated moment. Critical thinking about society and the environment during the coronavirus crisis'.

**EWAN JONES** has had a productive (if COVID-19 virus-disrupted) year of research at the Swedish Collegium of Advanced Study in Uppsala, where he has completed the manuscript for his second book, which addresses the history of the concept of rhythm.

---



**AMY MILTON**'s research has continued to focus on memory reconsolidation and particularly on the mechanisms underlying the behavioural updating of memories. She has published a number of scientific papers in journals such as *Neuropsychopharmacology*, *Learning & Memory* and *Frontiers in Behavioural Neuroscience*. She has spoken at several conferences, including the European Brain and Behaviour Society biennial meeting in Prague. She has also been involved in outreach, speaking on Radio 5 Live about the trend of 'dopamine fasting' and her TEDx Cambridge University talk from 2019 has now also been featured on TED.com, receiving more than 700,000 views within a week of posting.

**BRENDAN PLANT** recently delivered a lecture on the international law system concerning the use of force to a gathering of military officers, diplomats and officials representing a range of NATO member states at the NATO Defence College in Rome.

---

**NICK RAWLINSON** has had a busy year in the field deploying sensitive seismic instruments to record ground motion caused by earthquakes. His group led a large OBS (Ocean Bottom Seismometer) deployment in the southern Celebes Sea and Makassar Strait (eastern Indonesia) to study the offshore region in the neighbourhood of Palu, site of the devastating earthquake and tsunami of September 2018. He also deployed arrays of land-based seismic stations in Borneo and Sulawesi and undertook an expedition to Iceland's volcanic rift zones to detect earthquakes caused by magma movement and volcanic inflation. COVID-19 has interrupted Nick's 2020 field season, but he still hopes to undertake an OBS cruise to Macquarie Island in September to study

---

“He also deployed arrays of land-based seismic stations in Borneo and Sulawesi and undertook an expedition to Iceland's volcanic rift zones to detect earthquakes caused by magma movement and volcanic inflation.”

incipient subduction (where one tectonic plate begins the process of sinking beneath an adjacent plate). A recent article on his activity, *Deciphering the Fate of Plunging Tectonic Plates in Borneo*, can be found at [www.eos.org/science-updates/deciphering-the-fate-of-plunging-tectonic-plates-in-borneo](http://www.eos.org/science-updates/deciphering-the-fate-of-plunging-tectonic-plates-in-borneo)

---

**JOHN RICHER**'s research is in the field of radio astronomy, an area pioneered by physicists at the Cavendish Laboratory since the 1940s. Working at the Battcock Centre, he uses data from radio telescopes to make images and spectra of the cold gas clouds in the galaxy. These cold molecular clouds are the sites of ongoing star and planetary system formation and so reveal the physical processes that occur in the earliest phases of our solar system's formation and evolution. John was the UK Project Scientist during the design and construction of ALMA, the Atacama Large Millimetre Array. ALMA comprises 50 12 m diameter radio antennas, on a very dry 5000 m altitude site in northern Chile. Operating at very high radio frequencies and into the far infra-red, ALMA's radio antennas together produce spectacular high-resolution images of star and planet formation, as well as giving unique insights into the earliest phases of galaxy formation in the Universe soon after the Big Bang.

In October 2019, John came to the end of a six-year stint leading the undergraduate Physics Tripos at the Cavendish Laboratory: the subject has grown in popularity in the last decade with now nearly 1000 undergraduate students reading the subject, spread over the four years of the course. During this period, John continued to enjoy supervising students at Downing as well as leading teaching in the

Department. He spent the academic year 2019/20 on his first sabbatical leave, based mainly in Cambridge and working to pick up his research programmes in astrophysics. In normal times, this would involve travel to telescopes, conferences and to work with collaborators, but at the time of writing, the Cavendish Laboratory is closed and most travel opportunities suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so research activities have been severely limited to those which can be done individually and from home.

**IAN ROBERTS** took over as Director of the Section of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics in the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics from September 2019, as well as becoming Chair of the Linguistics and Philology Section at the British Academy. His 700-page monograph *Parameter Hierarchies and Universal Grammar* was published by Oxford University Press in June 2019.



**Chajnantto Plateau showing the ALMA Array**

© Sergio Otárola-ALMA(ESQ/NAO/NRAO)

**BRIGITTE STEGER** has been involved in an interdisciplinary project (funded by UK Research and Innovation) on reducing plastic waste, with the newly established Cambridge Creative Circular Plastics Centre. As the only social scientists in the group, she and her team (Dr Teresa Perez and Dr Patrick O'Hare) have been studying how the use and disposal of plastic are embedded in the everyday lives of consumers, comparing Japan, South Africa, Uruguay and Cambridge. They organised an international, interdisciplinary workshop on *The Social Life of Plastic* in November, 2019 and are currently preparing a special issue of the *Worldwide Waste* journal, with selected papers from this workshop.

Brigitte has also published an article on an influential, but little known Japanese anthropologist, Oka Masao (*The Stranger and Others: The Life and Legacy of the Japanese Ethnologist Oka Masao*) in the *Vienna Journal of East Asian Studies* and has co-edited (with Angelika Koch and Christopher Tso) a book with undergraduate students' essays, entitled: *Beyond kawaii: Studying Japanese femininities at Cambridge* (Lit Verlag; June 2020).

---

**GRAHAM VIRGO** held the Jones Day Visiting Professorship in Commercial Law at Singapore Management University in August 2019. The fourth edition of the *Principles of Equity and Trusts* was published in 2020, as was the third edition of *Contractual Duties: Performance, Breach, Termination and Remedies* (Clarke, Tettenborn and Virgo). He has continued as Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) and has been reappointed for a further two years. Before the pandemic hit he had been working on the developing

---

“Since lockdown he has been overseeing the move of the Collegiate University to remote teaching, learning and assessment for the Easter term and planning for the delivery of education for the next academic year in what might be a very different context.”

Transition Year programme, the launch of the Technology-enabled Learning Service for the University and a review of the size and shape of the University over the next decade. Since lockdown he has been overseeing the move of the Collegiate University to remote teaching, learning and assessment for the Easter term and planning for the delivery of education for the next academic year in what might be a very different context.

---

**DAVID WALES** received the inaugural Institute for Chemical Reaction Design and Discovery (ICReDD) Award, commemorating Professor Akira Suzuki, at Hokkaido University. He was awarded a Visiting Miller Professorship at the University of California, Berkeley and currently holds an International Chair at the Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Cote d'Azur (2020 – 2025). This year he was Distinguished Invited Speaker at the 2020 American Physical Society, Physics of Liquids meeting and was invited to give a Plenary Lecture at the 19th Cardiff Chemistry Conference.







# STUDENT NEWS

Middle Combination Room	74
Sporting activity	76
Reports on Societies	85
Scholarships, prizes and awards 2020	99
Postgraduate degrees conferred 2019–20	104

# Middle Combination Room

---

“Currently over 400 graduate students, fourth-year undergrads, visiting students, part-time students and post-doctoral scholars make up the Downing MCR membership.”

**DOWNING'S MIDDLE** Combination Room has continued to increase in size as time progresses. Currently over 400 graduate students, fourth-year undergrads, visiting students, part-time students and post-doctoral scholars make up the Downing MCR membership. This year's Committee has been one of our largest ever, with three social secretaries, three welfare officers, two bar officers and two international officers, as well as a full roster of other positions. This well-staffed committee has been especially active, with frequent events organised by the social secretaries, welfare officers, international officers, and liaison officer.

Downing's post-graduate population is involved in a plethora of taught/practical and research-based courses. Taught students in the Judge Business School and Department of Engineering have acted as consultants for companies around the UK, while research students have contributed to groundbreaking study in fields ranging from environmental studies to pure mathematics to epidemiology. These research interests have been showcased in MCR Seminar Nights, which occur once per term. At these events, three presenters from the MCR will each receive half an hour to speak about their research and take questions from SCR and MCR members. After the presentations, all attendees are treated to a buffet dinner at which discussion may continue. These events have continued in a modified form in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic; with research presentations now being hosted via Zoom.

This year, the MCR was delighted to restore ties with our sister college at Oxford, Lincoln College. At the second annual MCR Superformal in March, Lincoln, along with several other colleges at the University of Cambridge, was able to join us at Formal Hall. These colleges all returned the favour, giving MCR members opportunities to dine all around the city. Alongside these swaps, the MCR Committee also worked tirelessly to provide additional events such as the Christmas formal and a Burns Night celebration.

The Committee also contributed weekly events during term time, organising tea and cakes every Sunday, MCR bar nights on Fridays and a lunchtime mingle table with

Downing's Fellows during the week. The welfare officers have further worked to provide mindfulness workshops and better access to counselling for all members of the MCR. The MCR has also played a vital role in sport, contributing 20 rowers to the excellent results achieved by the Boat Club at this year's Lent Bumps, as well as several players to the College's rugby team and a handful of strong distance runners in the Cambridge Boundary Run and Half Marathon.

The MCR is always delighted to welcome alumni to its events. If you would like to be made aware of events and happenings in the MCR, please email our communications officer at [communications@mcr.dow.cam.ac.uk](mailto:communications@mcr.dow.cam.ac.uk) to be added to the mailing list.

**CAM HEALY**  
President



# Sporting activity

## Badminton

**DOWNING BADMINTON** has had a more successful year than anyone could have predicted. At the start, we saw such a high turnout to our trials that half of the Kelsey Kerridge was filled with badminton players eager to represent their College. As a result, we had enough players to fill two mixed teams and one women's team, in stark contrast to last year, when we only had one team able to regularly play matches. Our mixed First team started off the year in Division 1, and we initially hoped that we would do well enough to not get relegated from this very competitive division. It turned out that we far surpassed these expectations. As the term went on, we found ourselves winning match after match, including against some very competitive teams with one or more University players. By the end of Michaelmas term, we had won all but one of our matches with one more to go against Jesus. The match was tied 3–3 with one game left to play. The pair playing this match (Akash Gupta and Rohit Prabhu) got off to a characteristically strong start, but they then allowed the Jesus pair to catch up with some unnecessary mistakes. They nevertheless managed to take the game to 18–18 and took the last three points to seal that precious College League victory for Downing.

Our next big competition came in Lent term Cuppers, which is always a difficult gig because this is when teams are allowed to bring out their star players—those that have represented the University at the highest level. Nevertheless, our men's team fought hard to win against some very strong teams, beating many University players along the

way. We unfortunately ended up getting knocked out in the quarter finals, though naturally not without putting up a strong fight. Our mixed team fared even better by making it to the semi-finals, which was a big all-day event at the Sports Centre. Each of our three pairs had to play one match against their equivalent pair in the Trinity team, and we had to win two of these to make it to the finals. Our third pair (Akash Gupta and Zifei Lu) started us off with a close-fought, but ultimately unsuccessful match, but our second pair (Rohit Prabhu and Rowena Duncan) kept us in the game with a convincing win in their match. It was all resting on our first pair (Shirom Chabra and Connie Zhang) to take us home in their 3-set match. Unfortunately, after levelling the match they lost the third set.

Our final challenge, and the one that we will always remember, was to defend our College League title during Lent term. Over the course of the term, a strong team consisting of Shirom Chabra, Vatsal Raina, Rohit Prabhu, Akash Gupta, Ryan Yu, Zhengyan Ni and Connie Zhang fought hard to win match after match. We got to the end of the term having won all of our matches and with only one left to play, yet again against Jesus. After 6 games, the score was tied on 3–3 and our three pairs each had one game left to play, all against a single Jesus pair. We won the first game, Jesus the second. The Downing badminton veterans, Shirom and Vatsal, had shown throughout the year that they had an incredible ability to perform under pressure. In the closing moments we were able to pull ahead with a few fantastic

points scored under pressure, taking us, in style, to our second College League victory in a row. The year has been a truly thrilling one, filled with triumph. Looking forward, we hope that we can continue to defend our place at the top of the League and go even further in Cuppers. Whatever the future holds, I have little doubt that this is a year that will always be remembered by everyone involved.

**ROHIT PRABHU**

**Captain**

## Basketball

**DOWNING BASKETBALL CLUB** suffered a slow start as key members from the prior year had graduated, leading to a shortage of players and new strategies to adapt to, causing the demotion to Division 4. However, through inspiring effort from our players throughout the season, we improved and clawed back into Division 3. Furthermore, with the return of a graduated member in Phillip Young, we had an exhilarating Cuppers run, although losing to the defending champions in an incredible game where we were leading by the half, but an ankle injury to long standing member David Hu was too much to overcome. Our late-season success was on the back of great contributions from returning member Michael Batavanis and new recruits of fresher Noah Gordon, second year Ambery Harris and postgraduate Oliver Anthrops. With the entire team returning next year and a potential merger with Emmanuel to further strengthen our roster, we are all excited to continue our success into the year ahead!

**GEORGE SHEN**

**Captain**

## Football – Men's



**A STRONG YEAR** for the Firsts despite the season being sadly cut short, we probably came second. We were flying high like Manchester United with such momentum and star men recovering from injury. Unfortunately, our Cuppers run was not so successful, as we got knocked out in only the second round by an average semi-finalist Sidney Sussex team, due to our squad being ravaged by injuries. Some degree of revenge was taken when in the league fixture we served Sidney Sussex up a 4–0 humble pie, however our dream of lining up at Grange Road, with the Champions League anthem booming out, will have to wait until next year. Our moment of the season is most likely beating, an admittedly already weakened, Robinson, so badly that we stopped the game at 70 minutes.

However, as a club the victory of the year goes to our two's squad who pulled off a colossal victory against everyone's most hated Fitzwilliam (Leeds or Millwall equivalents), beating them 2–0 in the plate competition. (Don't ask about what happened in the next round, that's not the point.) As we all long for the return of the world's greatest sport we look back at the year positively, the first in a while where both squads have had no fear of a relegation scrap and we look forward to next year with a strong squad ready to, as always, start fast.

**SAM HEALY**

**Captain**

## Football – Women's



**DOWNING WOMEN** had a solid season ending with us finishing in the middle of the table of the second division. Newcomer Sophie Slater was our highest goal scorer, scoring a total of 6 goals. Congratulations also go to Nicki Payne and Freya Robson who played for the Eagles against Oxford in Varsity.

**NESSA TSANG**

Captain

## The Griffins Club



**THE GRIFFINS CLUB** held their annual dinner on 29 February. It was great to see so many alumni come back to celebrate sporting excellence at Downing College. A special thank you to our Senior President Phil Boulding for his ongoing support this year. Congratulations go to Charlie MacCallum who was awarded the Barry Everitt Prize for his contribution to College sport and to Cameron Burnett who was awarded the Simon Cook Prize for the 'Fresher who contributed most to College sport'. This award is in memory of Simon who sadly passed away while an undergraduate at Downing College in 1987. Cameron was awarded this prize due to his sporting excellence in his first year, representing the University at skiing and tennis, as well as partaking in College rugby. Cameron will also be the Griffins Club Junior President for the year 2020–21.

Unfortunately, the majority of the Varsity sport matches this year have had to be cancelled and many competitions were cut short prematurely. However, there have been some very strong performances from

the College sports teams throughout the year. Having won 2019 Cuppers for the first time since 2013, the rugby team (captained by Connor Newell) reached the semi-finals again this year and I am assured that they were feeling very confident about the finals! The badminton team won the League this year, captained by Rohit Prabhu. Another notable performance was from the hockey team who won their division, gaining a League promotion.

**ABI JORDAN**

Junior President

## Hockey



**AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS**, the biggest struggle for the hockey team has been numbers at matches. Fortunately, Downing College Hockey Club have made up for this with a small group of fantastic players. There have been a number of additions to the team, with the freshers slotting in seamlessly and playing superbly. From skilful and prolific forwards and energetic and creative midfielders, through to solid, reliable defenders, Downing have it all. Even a loudmouth goalie, who proves you don't have to be crazy to be a goalkeeper – but sometimes it helps. In Michaelmas term, consistent performances saw Downing win division 2, beating Robinson on goal difference. Downing's passing moves and controlling team play proved too much for most as we scored a massive 35 goals in 6 matches. The League victory saw a promotion of sorts in the League restructuring.

Lent term brought Cuppers and Downing reached the quarter finals in both men's and mixed tournaments before being knocked out by some very strong teams. The performances in these quarter finals were admirable, with



both matches being reasonably close, despite Downing playing with a player deficit. Even numbers could easily have made the difference. The League results were less impressive, only one win in three. The number of teams entered will determine if we retain our position in the division for next year. Without too many players leaving this year, it will be interesting to see what next year brings.

### ALASTAIR MACDONALD

Captain

## Lacrosse – Mixed



**THIS YEAR WAS** a successful one for the Downing College Mixed Lacrosse Club (or more widely referred to as the Downing Ducks) even if the results on the leader board didn't show that! Our turnout was higher than we had ever seen before, with many new players coming to try out the sport for the first time. We started out in Division 1, up against tough competition with our first win coming at the end of the term against Magdalene. Even if that was not enough to save us from being moved into Division 2, we still had a strong attendance throughout Lent term. A big achievement was our win against the Lincoln's team from Oxford in the Varsity match in Michaelmas term; many players, including alumni, took part to bring the Ducks to victory. Sadly, the annual Cuppers tournament was meant to take place in Easter term this year and so did not happen. Hopefully next year will be a strong year for the Downing Ducks and we will continue to have many new and old players taking part!

### ELANA PEGANO

Captain

## Netball – Ladies



**FOR NETBALL LADIES** 1s we started in Division 1 in Michaelmas term but unfortunately got relegated to Division 2. In Lent term we won every match with one which was postponed to Easter term against Murray Edwards 1 who were positioned at the bottom of Division 2 so we were likely to win against them meaning we'd have been promoted back to Division 1 in time for Michaelmas 2020. It's also worth mentioning we never struggled to get together a full team plus an umpire (which many other teams were lacking, even in Division 1). We have a really committed team who take netball seriously whilst also having a fun time!

### TAMMY SMUTNA

Captain

## Netball-Mixed



**DOWNING MIXED NETBALL** have had a good year overall. Despite having no League changes as of yet, Downing Mixed has had numerous new players throughout the year. A mix of narrow defeats and great wins have held out hope of us remaining in our current League, but great participation and ever increased numbers has meant that I am hopeful for the future of Downing Mixed Netball.

### DANIEL GROWCOTT

Captain

## Rowing



**DCBC HAS HAD** another successful year, with lots of new faces in the Club and some impressive achievements all round. Michaelmas term saw a large novice intake who performed well in their first races on the Cam, gaining great experience from the Cambridge Rowing Tank. Three novice crews entered the Fairbairn's Cup in early December and all finished in the top 10 of all Colleges, in their respective categories. W1 also put in an impressive performance, coming 2nd in their category, just 12 seconds short of first place.

Lent term started with a successful Winter Training camp, on the Cam, with over 70 rowers and coxes taking part. Lent Bumps saw some more impressive results, with Downing starting 4th in the Women's division and 3rd in the Men's. W1 saw their hard work pay off, making three bumps, including a rapid one on Jesus on the final day to take the Women's Lent Headship for the first time since 2013 – an excellent performance. Sadly, M1 had a much harder campaign and dropped 3 places to 6th. There were more exciting races from the other crews, with W2 making 5 bumps over the 4 days, moving up to the second division and taking their blades, whilst M2 sadly earned spoons. We were pleased to see W3 and M3 both qualify, securing some exciting bumps

---

“DCBC has had another successful year, with lots of new faces in the club and some impressive achievements all round.”

themselves during the week. The Club is obviously disappointed to have the year cut short, especially with the prospect of 3 rowers and 1 cox returning from CUBC for our May Bumps campaign, but overall we have had an exciting year – and look forward to returning for the 2020/21 season!

**ANNA THOMAS**

**Captain of Boats**

**SETH FOLLEN**

**Men's Captain**

**BECCA HATTON**

**Women's Captain**

---

## Rugby Union



**THE 2019–20 SEASON** started particularly well for the Magentlemen, with a strong freshers intake and such interest in the rugby team that not only could we name a full 23 man squad for each game, but we loaned several players out to the more struggling lower league Colleges to improve our own development, nicknamed the “Nomads”. The year started off with Downing 1st XV going unbeaten in the first League of the season. Cementing our role at the top of Division I, beating Johns, Robinson and Fitz to get there. A spree of injuries, including the now current Captain Daniel Owen breaking a rib, saw the second league of the season in the latter half of Michaelmas term go less smoothly, with losses against Johns, Fitzwilliam and Caius. However, due to Emmanuel refusing promotion, Downing was not relegated from Division 1.

Winning the first League of the season saw us top seeded for Cuppers, getting a bye in the first round. Followed by a comprehensive dismantling of CCK, 41–0, with fresher Harry Shaw walking in four tries. Emmanuel then forfeited against us as they didn't want

---

## “Winning the first League of the season saw us top seeded for Cuppers...”

to “sustain injuries from an opponent that outclassed them”. This saw us propelled to the Cuppers semi-final against Caius. A strongly forwards dominated game, with Vice Captain Tom Balderson leading the pack by example, saw us win 18–5. This meant we were in the finals against Fitzwilliam, to be played in the first week back of Easter term. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Easter term never quite materialised. Officially, the title of Cuppers winners is supposed to be shared between us and Fitzwilliam, but we still have the physical Trophy from last year. So as the age old adage goes: Winners win.

### CONNOR NEWELL

Captain

### TOM BALDERSON

Vice-Captain

---

## Squash



**IN MICHAELMAS TERM** the Downing Squash Club once again fielded a mixed team in the Intercollegiate Leagues. For most of the team this was their first time playing squash competitively for Downing and the new faces brought with them lots of energy and keenness. The squash courts of other Colleges were toured and fun was had by all, though victory itself proved hard to come by. In Lent term we entered a mixed team in Cuppers, where, despite our best efforts, we

were knocked out during the group stages, after coming close in many individual matches but not quite managing to pull through. The club was well-represented in this year’s squash Varsity, with three players (Andre Nowaczek, Georgie Jackson, and Nick Chornay) playing for Cambridge for the first time in the 2nds/3rds/4ths Varsity match that took place in Oxford near the end of Lent term.

Meanwhile the Club has continued its weekly training sessions during term time, providing players from the College at a range of levels a chance to improve their skills and get more out of the sport under the tutelage of our coach. Our much-loved coach of many years, Andy D’Alessandro, retired last year, so this year we welcomed a new coach, Chris Shaw. Our members have enjoyed Chris’s sessions, though the introduction of court sprints has been met with mixed enthusiasm.

### NICK CHORNAY

Captain

---

## Table Tennis



**DOWNING HAD A** very promising season over Michaelmas and Lent terms. In an exciting game against Trinity, the previous champions, Downing proved their skill and determination by winning 10–2 with a stand-out performance going to Vatsal Raina. Downing finished the season top of Division 1. The team is excited to defend their title next year and hoping to attract some more talented players.

### RITIK PATEL

Captain

## Tennis



**DOWNING TENNIS HAD** a year in which we happily saw an increase in numbers and players. We fielded out 2 teams in the League and 3 teams in Cuppers (2 men's teams and 1 women's team). I am very glad to see an increase in the numbers of the incoming students, as well as an uptick in female players. We did well for the year, despite being unable to complete Cuppers. We managed to come in 3rd in League 1 for the first team and 4th in League 4 for the second team. All 3 teams were also still in Cuppers up till cancellation of the matches. Thank you to all the members of the College tennis team this year and hoping for a good year next year too.

**DAVID HU**

**Captain**

## Ultimate Frisbee



**THE YEAR IN ULTIMATE** Frisbee has been one filled with exciting and well-fought contests. We started with a solid new intake of freshers eager to try a new sport and enthusiasm has stayed surprisingly high throughout the year. We began the year in Division 1 of College League and faced some very competitive matches to keep our place. In particular, we beat a very strong Trinity team on a 'universe point' in what turned out to be a must-win match, securing our place in Division 1 for Lent term. As always, Lent term started with indoor Cuppers, which is a new challenge for those players who have so far only played outdoors; in this fast-paced version of the game, players have to be constantly on their feet and mistakes are often swiftly punished. We faced a

tough set of matches in the group stages and despite some good play, we found ourselves in the bottom half of our group. We nevertheless kept fighting and we won all of our subsequent matches, putting us in a very respectable position overall.

We went on to have another set of close matches in Lent term College League, with the definite highlight being our incredible match against Homerton. Having gone 3–7 we pulled back to 7–9 before going on to secure the last 3 points consecutively, winning 10–9 in an almost fantastical match that was intense, exciting and nerve-wracking in equal measure. With the pattern of competitive and well-fought matches continuing over the course of the term, we pulled off an impressive number of wins and ended the term in third place. Throughout the year we've been really impressed with the way in which our players have been improving their skills in what for many is a very new sport. Indeed, the signature (but slightly complicated) DCU 'dice' formation, admired by our friends and enemies alike, has now become second nature to all of our players, both new and old. We have also, as usual, had a thriving social scene, with events such as ice skating and bowling supplementing our regular trips to Wetherspoons. The pandemic also prompted the first ever DCU virtual social, which was highly successful. While we were of course looking forward to the Easter term frisbee that wasn't to be. However, we know that the year, truncated though it may have been, is one that has brought much success, plenty of lessons and many memorable moments.

**JAKOB METSON and ROHIT PRABHU**

**Captains**

**THE DOWNING VOLLEYBALL** Team had a somewhat successful season. With a team comprising mainly beginners and having only begun training on the week of their first Cuppers match, Downing managed very well to hold their own and can look forward to expanding and improving the team next year. Their first match against Jesus was a tough one, losing all three sets, but they came back strong in their second match against local school, The Leys, winning all three sets. Which is how, by some miracle, Downing made it to either the finals or the third-place playoffs. We actually don't know which. After scraping six players together, the requisite

number for a team and the record number of players at a Downing match, the team showed up ready to dominate. They fought valiantly, but in the end took a noble 2nd (or 4th) place overall. The team are setting their sights high for next Cuppers season when, with any luck and much determination, they hope to take home 1st (or 3rd) place. Many thanks to the captain and coach Brandon Lee for his dedication to the team and player of the season goes to Freya Robson because it was clearly her presence that brought us our only victory.

**BRANDON LEE**  
Captain

## 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 or one-off donations please visit [www.downingcambridge.com/make-a-donation-online](http://www.downingcambridge.com/make-a-donation-online) Alternatively, 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

**THE ANNUAL FRESHERS'** Welcome / Welcome Back event was held in the Michaelmas term and it was wonderful to see many of the Downing Engineers discussing topics ranging from the Engineering Tripos to summer internships. Unfortunately, other events, including the annual dinner, were not able to take place, but I look forward to seeing what exciting events will be run in the next academic year.

ANNABEL PIGDON

---

## Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic, BAMEsoc

**THIS YEAR WE** have brought some new and exciting additions to regular BAMEsoc events! As well as Diwali Formal and the BME Buddy scheme and diversity workshops for incoming freshers, we have introduced *Cultural Keith's Café*. Reverend Dr Keith Eyeons has kindly allowed us to co-host his weekly Café outside the Chapel once a term, at which we serve a variety of hot drinks and assorted refreshments from a variety of other cultures. This has been very popular with Downing students, who have tasted everything from Indian jalebi to Japanese mochi! Another event that we hope will be continued by our successors was the BME Open Mic night, hosted in Downing Bar. We were treated to a range of performances spanning seven colleges and including musical performances, comedy and spoken word. Lastly, Downing collaborated with six other colleges to put on a BME Megaformal at Clare College, at which we hosted three esteemed speakers and some excellent post-dinner entertainment. We hope that BAMEsoc continues to flourish next year!

JAI SHENDE and SHAAN MANN

---

## The Blake Society

**THE BLAKE SOCIETY** hosted a range of events over the past year, all of which were successful in fostering engagement in the arts both within Downing and beyond its gates. Last summer our annual garden party was inspired by Salvador Dalí's renowned painting, *The Persistence of Memory* (we even managed to



source our own ‘melting clock’). Our guests showed up in garden party attire with an avant-garde twist – as per our request. It was truly an afternoon to remember!

For our first event of this academic year, we were joined by Ben Driver, the director of *Guy Cry Club*, an online platform for artists to explore the topics of masculinity and mental health. Later on in Michaelmas term, we co-hosted a launch event for the first ever edition of *Navigating Caviar*, a student zine on class in Cambridge, in aid of The Whitworth Trust. We were joined by writer, film maker and local councillor, Jocelynn Scutt, who gave an insightful talk on her work on women’s experiences of class. In January, we hosted an Arts After Dark event to accompany Barbara Hepworth’s *Divided Circle* exhibition at the Heong Gallery, where attendees tried their hand at sculpting. In February, The Blake Society hosted its first Pink Week event – *Donate & Create* – which offered a chance to unwind and get creative with a variety of pink-hued craft materials, at the beloved College bar, all in aid of breast cancer awareness. Later on in the term, we were joined by Char Ellesse – a film maker, model and influencer – with whom we discussed how people with marginalised identities navigate the arts. The second edition of *Navigating Caviar* was launched in March and, to celebrate, we held a screening of *A Choice to Look*, a documentary by Joe Cook and Abdullah Shah, who came along to talk about their work on highlighting the Cambridge class divide.

Being President of The Blake Society has been an experience I will hold dear to my heart, so I write this with some sadness that my term is over. However, I know that our incoming Committee will do an excellent job at carrying the Society from strength to strength. I want to extend my many thanks to Alan Bookbinder, Dr Sarah Kennedy, Andy Lingham, Dr Susan Lintott and Dr Prerona Prasad for their ongoing support and guidance this year, which made all of our achievements possible.

LATI GUTTA

---

## Brammer Geographical Society

**THE BRAMMER GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY** was excited to make a return to form this academic year with a new Committee. We were very fortunate to welcome the eponymous Hugh Brammer back to Downing in Michaelmas term to celebrate his birthday, where the members of the Committee were able to speak with him about his experiences with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation in Bangladesh.

The Society focused on smaller social activities within College this year to build a tight community of Geography students and Fellows. We were very pleased to host Rear Admiral Neil Morisetti in February as our main speaker



### **Celebrating Hugh Brammer's birthday**

for the year, who spoke to the Geography community at Downing about the national security impacts of both climate change and the then impending coronavirus pandemic. Due to the pandemic, the Society was unable to hold either its annual fieldtrip, which was planned to be to Great Yarmouth this year, or the annual dinner, which was going to be a celebration of 100 years of Geography at Downing. We hope that the preparations for these events will be picked up by the Committee next year.

We are looking forward to the future development of the Society on everyone's return to Cambridge and increasing links between Downing students of Geography: past, present, and future.

**CAMERON WATSON, FAITH BORLAND**

---

## **Chapel Choir**

**THE CHAPEL CHOIR** enjoyed a highly successful tour to Hungary in June of last year, performing in Budapest and Szeged (twinned with Cambridge) and we returned to College in October looking forward to the year ahead. Many new choral scholars and choir members joined our ranks and Evensong and Compline proved as popular with the College community as ever. The well-attended Advent Carol Service was a great success and we enjoyed the opportunity to perform in London at the Alumni Advent Carol Service, this year at St Mary-at-Hill, in the heart of the City.

In the Lent term highlights included a Catholic Mass in the Chapel with the Catholic Chaplaincy to the University, Fisher House and a poignant memorial

service for the much-loved Dr Alex Morris, where the Choir sang music from Charles Wood and Will Todd for a packed Chapel at Robinson College. The term continued with our regular programme of services and concerts, and we were mercifully unaware of what was to come once Lent term ended. We were looking forward hugely to our tour to Scandinavia in July, with performances planned in Gothenburg, Stryö, Oslo and Bergen, following the wonderful time that would have been Cambridge in May Week, when we would have enjoyed performing our popular annual concert and wrapping up a year of hard work. While it is a great shame that we, like so many, cannot enjoy these things, we are grateful for the two short terms we did share and have reallocated some of the funds from the cancelled tour for a weekend of performances in Edinburgh, hopefully before term starts in October.

Thanks are due to my colleagues, Louisa Denby (assisting organist) and Tom Baldwin (postgraduate organ scholar); to Downing's Director of College and Chapel Music, David Lowe, a valuable mentor and advisor; to the Chaplain for his continued support; and of course to the Choir themselves. While we are sad not to have been here to sing in the Easter term, we are greatly looking forward to another year of fantastic music making, tours and Cathedral visits and hope to see you at some of our services and events when we are reunited soon!

**CHRIS HAMILTON**

**Organ Scholar**

---

## **Cranworth Law Society**

**AS PRESIDENTS OF** the Cranworth Law Society, it has been our responsibility to oversee the Society and do the best we can to put on a programme that best serves our members. We are very proud of all that we have achieved this year. Some of our more systematic changes have included increasing the number of non-law student members and passing significant constitutional reforms to make the Society more transparent and democratic.

In Michaelmas we started our programme of events with a Pizza Welcome Evening: a relaxed and informal event to allow our new and returning law students to mingle and make friends. The rest of Michaelmas term was filled with graduate recruitment dinners from various law City firms. This allowed us to maintain the strong bonds we have with firms such as Slaughter & May, Skadden, Linklaters and Freshfields, and develop newer relationships with Debevoise & Plimpton and Goodwin Procter. Our Christmas Dinner (kindly sponsored by Sidley Austin) brought the undergraduate lawyers together for a memorable and musical end to term.

Our Lent term began with the Annual London Trip. The Committee took the first-year lawyers down to London to meet with Heather Murphy and Daniel



**Cranworth Christmas Dinner 2019**  
(sponsored by Sidley Austin LLP)

Warents for lunch at XXIV Old Buildings chambers. We then headed to the Supreme Court where we were fortunate enough to have a Q&A with Lord Lloyd Jones and Lord Reed. The trip was rounded off with dinner at solicitors Norton Rose Fulbright. To celebrate 40 years of women being admitted into Downing, we were delighted to attend the biennial Cranworth Alumni dinner at Middle Temple Hall in London. At this dinner, Downing's own Farmida Bi and Professor Graham Virgo gave speeches, with Professor Feldman and other notable alumni also in attendance. As Presidents we are particularly proud that we could host the Cranworth Cases Formal in West Lodge for the first time since 2016. All of the students were excited to showcase their creativity as they dressed up as their favourite case. It was certainly one of the more memorable nights in Cambridge for some!

We were disappointed not to be able to host the Annual Dinner in June. It is a cornerstone event and a fantastic opportunity to talk with Cranworth alumni. It really underlines the fact that you are still a Cranworth lawyer even after you graduate. However, the current closure did not stop all Society activity. We were delighted to see so many join us for an online EGM where we held our Hustings. As such, we are proud to announce that both Finn Bell and Callum Caldwell have not only continued the winning streak as victors against Magdalene in the Annual Moot, but have also been elected as Secretaries of the Society next year. It has been an honour to serve the Cranworth Law Society and we wish all the best to our new Presidents, Quinn Liang and Julian Aurelio Torres H-Bonilla, who go on to prepare celebrations for the Society's 100th anniversary.

**AAKASH MOHINDRA & COLETTE WATT**

## Danby Society

**THE DANBY SOCIETY** is the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Society of College, where everyone can learn more about the latest developments in STEM. This year's events followed on from the efforts last year to have a mixture of STEM updates from not only academia, but also from industry. We started the year with a talk from Professor Lee Cronin, Regius Chair of Chemistry in the School of Chemistry at the University of Glasgow, regarding his work on Discovering the Origin of Life and Aliens using Complex Molecules. This was followed by a talk by Innovia Technology, a local consultancy company specialising in breakthrough innovation, giving insight into how they apply scientific breakthrough in industry. In Lent term, Dr Darshil Shah from the Department of Architecture gave us a fascinating talk about the use of biocomposites in structural applications. From his own experience of working on industrial projects, he was able to tie together the academic aspect of biocomposites research and the industrial considerations required to apply the technology. Unfortunately, due to Easter term being held online and away from Cambridge, no events were planned. However, it has been a productive year and we hope to keep bringing our members interesting events in the future.

BRANDON LEE

---

## Dramatic Society

**RARELY DOES THE** opportunity come along for amateur thespians to read their Shakespeare to a tree. This was only one of many bizarre events, of course, to herald our time with Downing Dramatic Society, which has seen one performance of *The Tempest*, a Shakespearean-themed *A Christmas Carol*, a post-Soviet rendition of Gorky's *The Lower Depths* and, of course, the annual *Festival of New Writing*. The 'tree ceremony' in Lent was a poignant ode to the cedar by the Heong Gallery, which unfortunately came down with an infection (thankfully not transmittable to humans) and was cut down. The ceremony was arranged by the fantastic Stephen Bennett, Downing's Director of Drama and source of eternal inspiration and finely timed anecdotes, whom the Committee can only thank again for his commitment to the Society this past year.

The Society has continued to make use of the fantastic Howard Theatre which, like the College itself, represents the old and the new in fine balance. Appropriately, Michaelmas term treated us to two modern takes on old classics. *The Tempest* proved its versatility as a play about feeling, literally, lost at sea, re-casting its central characters to evoke the challenges and opportunities of modern identity (think Helen Mirren's *Prospera*). It was followed by William Shakespeare's *A Christmas Carol*, a festive three-nighter written by Ian Doescher (famous for his

Shakespearean retellings of *Star Wars*, available in any good Waterstones). This mash-up between Dickens and Shakespeare was a tale through time quite unlike any other and there have been a lot of them recently (think BBC's recent retelling). And there was indeed a real snow machine.

Lent term gave Downing's own centre stage, kicking off with the annual Fresher's Play, Gorky's *The Lower Depths*. Excellently envisioned and directed by Maria Telnikoff, with some stellar performances by our new arrivals, it continued our theme with a new take on Gorky's Tsarist looking glass, transporting us to 1991, a new Russia still troubled by old problems. The Society's crown jewel, the *Festival of New Writing*, I am pleased to report continues to expand and reach new heights of success. This year saw the most submissions of any year since the first Festival in 2015; as such, the competition and quality was very high. Our thanks go to all the writers, directors and actors who took part to make new theatre come to life. We must also thank Lati Gutta and Matthew Paul, who took charge of the production this year, demonstrating themselves to be fine organisers. DDS continues in the safe hands of Matthew Paul (President) and Seb Brindle (Vice-President), who have exciting plans for taking the Society forward into next year.

OLIVER RHODES

---

## FemSoc

**THIS YEAR MARKS** 40 years of women at Downing and, while the pandemic cut short some of our planned celebrations, FemSoc's been busy this past year! Alongside our discussion groups, which focussed on topics such as young female protagonists in fiction (think *The Hunger Games*) vs. reality (think Greta Thunberg) and how the media portrays them, we've put on a few events. One of the most enjoyable was a collaboration with the LGBT+ Officers – we organized a joint themed pub quiz, with proceeds going to the Whitworth Trust. Our favourite moment from this was a (Geography!) student asking us whether the Pride flags for the picture rounds were country flags. In honour of International Women's Day and 40 years of women at Downing, we put on a formal with proceeds going to the Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre. An employee there wrote us a really touching speech to read out to everyone who came (as she couldn't be there) and the formal was a great time! And possibly our favourite project this year was our 'Woman of the Week', where we profiled one female student each week, interviewing them about their passions and ambitions in celebration of 40 years of women at Downing.

ZOE MATT-WILLIAMS



## The Griffin Magazine

**Editor's note:** For those who are unaware of *The Griffin* magazine, it first appeared in Michaelmas term, 1903, featuring articles, student profiles, occasional obituaries and general information about life in College/sports and clubs reports. It ran unbroken – through both wars – up to 1969, then lapsed several times in the 1970s and between 1989–94. It was more of an informal, A4 photocopied format from the 1970s before the more recent, glossy A5 magazines.

**DURING OUR TIME** as editors of *The Griffin*, we have attempted to shift the direction of the magazine somewhat towards the arts as well as trying to make the magazine both economically and environmentally friendly. Our predecessors had begun an opt-out system to receive the print copy which we changed to an opt-in. After surveying the JCR body we decided to publish the magazine online only with a few print copies placed in the Porters' Lodge and Lord Butterfield Cafe for those who preferred print editions to enjoy. *The Griffin* has often struggled with commissions, consequently we approached specific members of the College in conjunction with the regular 'mail-out' commissions call. Continuing the popular 'Humans of Downing' feature we added reviews of local hot spots for 'student-friendly' local eateries and spaces for both revision and relaxation. In honour of the anniversary of 40 years of women at Downing we decided to create a special commemorative edition that would be larger than the usual magazine that would combine both the editions from Michaelmas and Lent terms, including material from the Downing Archive regarding the admission of women into the College.

**SOPHIE FENTON and FFION EDWARDS**

**Editors 2019/20**

**ONE OF OUR** primary goals was to take *The Griffin* into an online format and this is something that we have brought forward and launched during the coronavirus pandemic and facing the prospect of a virtual term. We have reached out across the student body and received a range of submissions, including metaphorical assessments of development opportunities in Cambridge, reflective pieces from finalists facing an abrupt end to their degree and personal accounts of experiences in lockdown. These articles have been uploaded to our *Wordpress* blog and promoted through our newly established Facebook page, through which we have also been managing additional content including a range of student photography.

The next stages for *The Griffin* include the much-awaited art competition, along with the promised student guide to student life. We look forward to compiling our efforts in a printed edition next year.

**DAN PEARCE and SHANNON RAWLINS**

**Editors 2020/21**

---

## **Jazz Band**

**DOWNING COLLEGE JAZZ BAND** has had an absolutely stellar year. We have welcomed several very talented new members into the band, including Jay Chiswick (bass guitar), Ellis Thomas (piano), Emma Greer (clarinet), Joel Richardson (alto sax) and Freddie Holloway (trumpet). On top of that, we have recruited the lovely Eve Herzberg, who has put her vocals to very good use on classic songs like *Sir Duke* and *Santa Baby*. It has not just been new people though: we have expanded our repertoire vastly this year, from big band pieces such as *Jazz Police* to smooth bossa nova vocal standards like *Corcovado*. The best part has undoubtedly been being able to showcase the band's talent and repertoire at the various gigs both in and out of College. Within College, DCJB has performed several times in the bar, both for special occasions like super-formals and midway formal, as well as its termly bar gigs which always attract a very welcoming and enthusiastic audience. One particular highlight in the bar was a charity gig, where DCJB performed to entertain audiences after Pink Week formal. As for out of College, DCJB was more than happy to accept an invite back to the Hidden Rooms Bar for a gig in Michaelmas term and also entertained students from Sidney Sussex at a bar gig in Lent term.

DCJB was set to expand its horizons even further in Easter term, with invites to perform at both St. Johns and Pembroke May Balls, as well as various garden parties in Cambridge. However, even without these gigs, DCJB has still enjoyed a great year of jazz. I would like to thank all of the band members who have worked incredibly hard this year to reach such a high standard of playing and special thanks go to Ollie Todd, our Musical Director, who has undoubtedly been a driving force for our success. Last but not least, we bid a very fond farewell to the members of the band that are leaving us this year, including Declan Hickey (clarinet), Pranetr Pattu (tenor sax), Jacob Knight (drums), Ben Stephenson (piano/alto sax), Ali Lawrence (alto sax) and Nathan Parker (bass). You have all been massive assets to the band and we wish you all the very best for the future (and hope you come back for a jam at some point soon!).

**ADRIAN RAMIREZ-VALDEZ**

## The Maitland Society

**THIS YEAR HAS** been a very successful one for the Maitland Society, as we celebrated its centenary. The Society was founded on 27 April 1920 in the rooms of Keith Norman Hillson, who was elected as its first President. We held four events: two in Michaelmas term, and two in Lent term, on a range of historical topics. Richard Wilson joined us in October to talk about the fascinating work of William Wilkins, the architect who designed Downing. Later that term, we hosted Dr Johnhenry Gonzalez, who gave a passionate and thought-provoking talk about post-colonialism in the context of Haitian independence. In January, we hosted Professor Richard Bourke, who delivered a fascinating and discussion-provoking talk about the principle of revolution, focusing on Edmund Burke's Reflections on the Revolution in France. Finally, in March, we hosted Professor Samita Sen, who gave an interesting talk about gendered mobility in contemporary India, encouraging us to think about feminism through a new lens. All the events were well-attended and we saw more students from other colleges at the talks, perhaps because the events were better-publicised. We are excited to see what the new Committee will bring to the table!

OLIVIA NEAVE

---

## The Mathias Society

**THE YEAR FOR** the Mathias Society started with much sadness with the passing of Dr Alex Morris in October. Alex had played a very significant role, not only in the Society's operations in the last few years, but also in the lives of its members. A Memorial Service was held on the 1 February, the same date as the Annual Mathias Dinner. Alex had loved planning this dinner every year and so it was a fitting, for both her colleagues and students, to remember her together on the occasion. There were some changes to dinner arrangements compared to previous years, with the most notable being the hiring of the spectacular Downing Jazz band and the use of the Grace Howard Room instead of standard Formal Hall. These changes were very well received by students, supervisors and the many alumni that returned. Earlier in Michaelmas term there was an interesting and topical talk by Dr Graham Gudgin, hosted by the Society. Dr Gudgin's relatively controversial views on the potential impact of Brexit seemed to arouse the intellectual curiosity of students and offered alternative insight into a highly debated topic at the time. Students enjoyed mingling over pizza and wine after the talk.

ALI FAWAD

## Downing College Music Society

**THE OPPORTUNITY TO** devise an entire year's worth of music-making in an environment packed with fabulous venues has been entirely inviting and entirely rewarding and I am proud to report back to our community that musical talent is richer and more diverse at Downing than ever. For me, the responsibility of the College Music Society is to give students the opportunity to not only relax with a dose of cultural enrichment, but to get involved with the greater artistic life of the College and I feel at ease knowing that this year Downing College Music Society, alongside David Lowe's Downing Series, have achieved this goal.

Held in late October, a Master's Lodge full to the brim with audience members witnessed the annual Freshers' Recital, something of a DCMS institution that started the new academic year by celebrating the wealth of musical talent entering the College in 2019. We were lucky enough to enjoy a varied programme, featuring classical guitar, a string trio, solo piano and a whole host of singers. The Michaelmas term also saw the launch of a new initiative coordinated by Downing and St Catharine's Music Societies that unites talented musicians across the two colleges, forming a collection of chamber ensembles. This particular concert centred around the theme of 'Barbara Hepworth and Early Music' in collaboration with the *Divided Circle* exhibition at the Heong Gallery. I would like to personally thank Dr Prerona Prasad and the Heong Gallery for granting DCMS the freedom to put on events in coordination with its *Arts After Dark* series and I hope that this is something that will continue for years to come. Michaelmas term ended once again with a concert given by Trumpington Street Orchestra, featuring a programme of excerpts from Handel's *Messiah* (featuring the Pembroke Singers), alongside music by Schubert, Mussorgsky and Vaughan Williams. An excellent opportunity to let students try their hand at conducting, as well as another avenue for music-making across intercollegiate boundaries, this proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable concert for all.

Lent term saw a great diversity of events, ranging from a performance of experimental and improvisatory music at the Heong Gallery given by Cambridge alumni The Mermaid Café in collaboration with the Minerva Festival (facilitating the music of women and non-binary people across Cambridge), to an outstanding recital of piano music by first-year music student and incoming DCMS president, Ellis Thomas. One of my personal favourite items of Lent term was the Choir Members' Recital, given by a great number of our Chapel Choir, with a variety of pieces across the span of the Western classical tradition. I would like to thank our ever-talented organ scholars and the Chapel Choir for their endless contributions to the musical life of Downing, without which it would be entirely incomplete.

Through the process of writing this report it has been truly difficult to make omissions, which goes to prove how Downing College Music Society has thrived this academic year. I would like to thank all of those who have facilitated and



greatly added to the musical life of Downing: my Committee, the Master and Maggie Cherry for their boundless support of College music, Keith Eyeons our Chaplain and David Lowe, a fount of musical expertise who continues to prioritise and support the important musical activities of this College. It is with great sadness that I see my tenure as President of Downing College Music Society come to a premature end, but I look forward to working with Ellis, our incoming President for 2020–21, and the musical riches that the next academic year will bring.

HANNAH HARDING

---

## Tetris Society

**WHETHER IT BE** on a mobile phone, handheld gaming device, console, or even arcade cabinet, everyone has played Tetris. In fact, it was the highest selling video game of all time until recently – thanks Minecraft. It has since been overtaken by a number of more recent titles, as gaming becomes more popular and accessible. Still, you can't beat the classics. Tetris Society is open to all, free of charge and aims to introduce its members to the game as both a way to relax and an avenue to which they can channel their competitive energy. Competitive Tetris has recently achieved viral success – with the world championships even being broadcast on ESPN. More and more opportunities are cropping up for players to compete, with the barrier to entry becoming lower and lower. Many people are of the misconception that Tetris is boring and 'too easy', but these people have never really played Tetris. With a top-100 ranked player among us, the Society offers plenty of opportunities for newcomers to learn the intricacies of the game. Once you really learn how to play, it becomes a completely different game.

Having acquired an original 1985 Nintendo Entertainment System, our members have enjoyed playing on retro hardware during sessions. Additionally, members have been able to play on their PCs and other devices. Beyond playing Tetris, the Society also comes together to watch Tetris and puts on themed events. We've hosted a Nintendo-themed session, where members dressed up as their favourite characters and had plans to attend the UK championships cut short by current events. We have been successful in introducing new members to Tetris in

**OPPOSITE: Downing Wind Quintet performing for a segment on rower**

**Callum Sullivan, filmed by BBC Sport.** From left to right: Adrian Ramirez-Valdez (2nd year Natural Sciences, flute), Zadie Loft (2nd year Classics, clarinet), Callum Sullivan (3rd year Music, French horn), Hannah Harding (2nd year Music, bassoon), Martha Oakes (2nd year MMLL, oboe).



a way that is fun and engaging and aim to take this further by trying to increase membership next year and make the push for more experienced members to start playing competitively. Tetris is low commitment and easily accessible – this period of indoor activity will hopefully foster interest for the game and set the stage for a good forthcoming year.

ANDRE NOWACZEK

---

## The Whitby Society

**THIS YEAR WAS** filled with a range of academic and social events for Downing College's Medical and Veterinary Society. Michaelmas term was focused on welcoming the new undergraduates, with events such as the subjects' picnic during Freshers' week, which was organised by 2nd and 3rd year students. Once everyone had settled in, undergraduates had the opportunity to enjoy an evening speaking with members of all years of Downing medical students in the *Whitby Welcome Event*. There were several academic talks held in Michaelmas term and a particular highlight was our own Charlie Slater, holding a talk on *Clinical School and Medical Careers in the Army*, in which he reflected on his elective and discussed opportunities presented by the Army, such as travel and bursaries. Clinical students also attended an *Electives* talk in which 6th year students discussed the large range of destinations and types of elective that were available. We were also very lucky to have Dr Jaykar Panchmatia, a consultant spinal surgeon and alumnus of Downing, give 1st and 2nd year students specialist supervisions regarding spinal surgery.

In Lent term we had a talk on *Life as an Amputee in the Developing World* by Dr Viquar Qurashi, who discussed the Naya Qadam Trust which he developed in 2005 after the Kashmir earthquake. This was originally set up to aid those who were left physically disabled by the disaster and now aids amputees in other areas of conflict or catastrophe. Lent term also featured the return of *Whitby stash* which included sweatshirts of a range of colours embroidered with the Whitby logo. Unfortunately, we were unable to host the Whitby annual talk and dinner this year, but we would like to say our congratulations and farewell to the graduating class of 2020. We wish them all the best.

RITIK PATEL





# OBITUARIES

1940's	160
1950's	171
1960's	192
1970's	196
1980's	197
1990's	198
2000's	199



# 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.

The obituaries are grouped by decade by reference to matriculation year and within each decade in alphabetical order.

## 1940's

**DENIS ARTHUR DEAN (1945)** died on 19 June 2019, aged 96. He read Law. His wife, Margaret, writes:

Denis was born in Manchester on 28 February 1923, but moved to Southport at a young age. He was educated at St Mary's College, Crosby. In January 1942 he joined the Royal Signals Corps as a Signaller. He was due to sail to France on D Day +1, but caught German measles. He spent some time in Aldershot Hospital before rejoining his regiment in Northern France. In 2016 he was awarded the rank of Chevalier in the Ordre National de la Legion d'honneur.

On demobilisation in 1945 he took up his place at Downing College where he spent three very happy years studying Law as well as playing rugby and cricket for the College. He had a great affection for Downing and always enjoyed visiting in later years when he was able. In 1950 he qualified as a solicitor and thereafter worked in local government in Southport, Brighton and Gloucestershire. He retired in 1982 as Clerk of Gloucestershire County Council and Clerk of the Peace. After retirement he became a very active Justice of the Peace on the Cheltenham Bench. He continued to avidly follow Gloucester Rugby Club and Gloucestershire Cricket Club. Denis was a devoted family man. He had four children and five grandchildren plus two great grandsons who were both born within the last year of his life and who gave him great joy.

**JOHN JACOB (JACK) DUNNETT (1940)** died on 26 October, aged 97.

He read Law. His wife, Pamela, writes:



Born in Glasgow, he moved south at a very young age and was a scholarship boy at Whitgift Middle School, Croydon before going up to Downing. After a year, his studies were interrupted by his service in the army during the war (1941–46). He was in Italy with the Cheshire Regiment, taking part in the Salerno landing in September 1943 before being wounded in the push to Monte Cassino. He eventually rose to the rank of Captain and subsequent duties included taking charge of the garrison at Florence at the end of the war. He then returned to Downing to obtain his degree, like other veterans, after only studying for one more year. He went on to practice in London, also becoming a county councillor and a Chelsea season ticket holder. He then became a club chairman, first at Brentford in the 1961–2 season and subsequently at Notts County from 1967–8, taking them from the 4th to the 1st Division. He also had two spells as President of the Football League and was a Vice President of the Football Association as well as a member of the Football Trust which was a Government funded body to improve the safety of sports stadiums in the United Kingdom.

From 1964 to 1983, he was a Labour MP, first for Central Nottingham and then for Nottingham East. A key commitment was to slum clearance. Early on, he was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Fred Mulley, when he was Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and later Minister of Transport. He remained an active member of the Labour party for the rest of his life. From university days, he was a keen bridge player and continued to play until only a short time before his death. He was also an avid reader including history, economics and political books as well as crime novels, and a lover of screen westerns. In 1951, he married Pamela, who survives him. He leaves two sons, Alan and Charles; two daughters, Susan and Patricia; and six grandchildren. A third daughter, Jane, predeceased him.

---

**MICHAEL EDWARDS GODDARD (1949)** died in November 2019, aged 92.

He read Mechanical Sciences.

**PATRICK KENNARD HARRISON (1949)** died on 13 April 2020, aged 91. He read English followed by Archeology and Anthropology. His cousin, Charles Darwent (1977), writes:



From 1968 to 1987, Patrick Harrison was Secretary of the Royal Institute of British Architects. These were turbulent times for the profession; Patrick was well suited to guide it through them.

He had won an exhibition to Downing in 1946, but National Service in the RAF meant that he could only take it up in 1949. Reading English, he fell under the spell of the College's presiding genius, FR Leavis. Leavis taught a mix of analytic rigour and moral idealism;

both stuck with his student. In the 1950s, at the Scottish Office, Patrick was posted to Edinburgh as Principal in the Development Department. His work on new towns such as Cumbernauld left him with the firm view that "ideas that come out of a community's guts [are preferable to] ones imposed on them by remote authorities".

Back in London, secretaryship of the RIBA called for his considerable skills as a mandarin. Government policy towards architecture yo-yo'd with each change of administration: Harrison deftly steered a middle course. He lobbied against Labour plans to nationalise construction – "The kind of buildings to emerge ... wouldn't be the kind that people would want" – while mourning Conservative privatisation of council architectural offices ("not a suitable subject for crudely applied price competition"). He was saddened by the 'liberalising' of town planning under Mrs Thatcher; appalled, in 1984, by the Prince of Wales's "carbuncle" speech, made during a ceremonial dinner to mark the RIBA's 150th anniversary.

Patrick was appointed CBE in 1982. After his retirement in 1987, he became a roving ambassador for RIBA, touring India, South Africa and China. A decade later, he and his wife, my cousin Mary *née* Damant, returned to Edinburgh, commissioning the local architect, Richard Murphy, to design them a flat in the New Town. Patrick's last years were clouded by dementia; Mary survives him, as does their daughter, Cordelia (Newnham 1984-87).

---

**DAVID BERTRAM HARLEY (1949)** died on 13 March 2017, aged 94. He read Modern Languages.

The Reverend David Harley was born to a military family, the second son of Lt Colonel Arthur Bertram & Mrs. Joyce Harley. Educated at Bedford School between 1931 and 1940, on leaving school Rev Harley volunteered for the Indian Army and whilst awaiting passage to India he served in the Royal Observer Corps, stationed in the local ROC headquarters above the



General Post Office, plotting enemy aircraft during the Battle of Britain and thereafter, until in June 1941 he was able to report to Aldershot as an Indian Army cadet. Once in India he joined the 1st Battalion of the 2 KEO Gurkha Rifles as part of the Eighth Army at El Alamein. In North Africa, Rev Harley narrowly missed being killed by bombs at the Battle of Akarit twice in one day. Subsequently he took part in the Italian campaign eventually taking part in the battle of Monte Cassino, during which he received a severe wound to the upper spine. Once he began to regain his health he was deployed to work at an Indian Army Resettlement Camp outside Thetford in Norfolk and then volunteered to go as a platoon commander to 13 Infantry Training Centre in Maidstone to train Indian Army Cadets. He was selected to represent the Indian Army on the London VE (Victory in Europe) Parade.

Rev Harley decided to remain in the army with the end of hostilities and in 1946 he obtained a regular army commission in The Buffs (the Kent regiment). It was also the year that he married Jean Craigie Halkett. After some time he reverted to the Indian Army and returned to the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun as an instructor. He left India in 1947 following Partition and in 1948 was drafted to Berlin at the time of the Soviet blockade. However, he then suffered delayed Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, was flown back to England and was invalided out of the Army. Upon his recovery he went up to Downing. From 1950–58 he was an Assistant Master of Modern Foreign Languages at Bedford School during which time their three sons (Jonathan, Ralph and Justin) were born. Having been ordained into the Church of England Rev Harley became the Chaplain and Head of Religious Studies at Stamford School in September 1958. For almost 30 years, he taught divinity, modern languages, psychology and ethics. Upon his retirement in 1987, Rev Harley volunteered as Chaplain of Browne's Hospital, an alms house in Stamford.

---

**HERBERT DONALD HITCHCOCK (1946)** died on 13 March 2020, aged 95. He read Geography. The following is an abridged version of an obituary by Richard Lloyd for the *Balsall Bugle* and is reproduced with their kind permission:

Born in Lancashire in November 1924, his education was interrupted when the teachers at Colne Grammar School were called up for World War II service. Don became a cadet in the Royal Navy in 1943. On the Captain-class Destroyer Escort HMS Narborough, Don's role was to decode incoming messages for the Captain and encrypt outgoing signals from the ship. This crucial job was given to young sailors of high intelligence and ability. The ship escorted convoys across the Atlantic and sent back weather reports that had a critical bearing on the timing of the D-Day landings in Normandy. On D-Day+1, Don's ship took part in the rescue of all 2,689 US soldiers and crew aboard the USS Susan B

Anthony, which had struck a mine. After D-Day, the Narborough escorted Arctic convoy JW61 to Murmansk without loss, despite constant harassment by U-boats and stormy weather, then returned to escorting convoys and hunting for U-boats, between NW Scotland and the Faeroe Isles. The battle of the Irish Sea followed in Spring 1945. The day after VE Day, Don was involved in the liberation of Guernsey and later assisted in the towing of a captured advanced U-Boat to Russia.

Post-War, Don took up a scholarship to Downing, graduating in Geology. He was elected a member of the Griffins Club. A career in university lecturing was preceded by a period with the occupation forces in Germany. Mary and Don married at the end of 1953 and raised a family of three sons and a daughter. Don's speciality was geomorphology, the study of the physical landform and how the land beneath our feet shapes human settlement and activity.

In later life, Don and Mary became heavily involved with local affairs in Balsall Common. Don was the chairman of Berkswell Parish Council 2004–06 and was still an active councillor at the time of his death. In sport, he was active in the Kenilworth Cricket Club and chaired the West Midlands 3rd XI. Other voluntary work was at a day centre for the homeless, and with Families Need Fathers. He was a member of the West Midlands Pensioners Convention. He is honoured as a founder of other projects, including the Kenilworth-Berkswell Greenway, the Solihull Tree Wardens Group, and the Balsall and Berkswell Jubilee Youth and Community Project. It was 10 years ago that HS2 came into the public domain, and once again, Don's energy and skills were called into play.

His involvement in the events of World War II led him to receive a number of honours in recent years, including the Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur, medals from the Russian Federation and the award of the Arctic Star. He was chairman of the Captain Class Frigate Association for many years, vice-chairman of the Normandy Veterans Association and chairman of the Knowle branch of the Royal Navy Association. Through these bodies, he was able to make visits to the United States, Guernsey, and last summer, to Normandy for the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

---

**ALAND CAMPBELL KINGDOM (1946)** died on 25 November 2017, aged 97. He studied for a Certificate of Competence in Russian. He was a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Navy.

---

**BRIAN DUNHAM LAMMING (1945)** died on 21 August 2019, aged 92. He read Mechanical Sciences. His son, Jonathan, has reported that "after two years of National Service in REME, his father started working on the shop floor and worked his way up to the highest level of management in well-known British companies".

**JOHN MICHAEL LAITHWAITE (1943)** died on 10 April 2020, aged 94.  
He read Engineering.

---

**BRIAN CRAYFORD LOUGHMAN (1948)** died on 9 October 2019, aged 94.  
He took a PhD in Plant Biochemistry. His son, David, writes:



Dr Brian Crayford Loughman was born in Abercarn, Gwent in 1925 and grew up in a typical South Welsh mining community of the time, his father being a coalminer. After the Lewis School, Pengam, where he was much influenced by the poet Alun Lewis, a teacher at the school, he read Chemistry at Aberystwyth. Although called up into the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, his was immediately deemed a reserved occupation. He matriculated at Downing in 1948 in order to read for his

doctorate in biochemistry, during which time he was also influenced by Joseph Needham, the famous biochemist and sinologist. Brian often recalled sitting over coffee in the apartment after his viva and seeing Needham receive the proofs of the first of his many volumes of the extraordinary *Science and Technology in China*. A mistake was noted, which Needham immediately deemed an ‘occidental inclusion’.

Brian then moved on to Oxford as a post-doc student and later Demonstrator, at which time he became a member of Lincoln College. After a period in the US at Caltech, he returned to Oxford, becoming a Fellow of University College (Plant Sciences) in 1970, where he remained until his formal retirement to Emeritus status in 1992. He was a great lover of college life, and supported with enthusiasm all manner of student activities, particularly music. He held various college, university and international academic posts, including the post of Dean of Graduates for so long and with such affection, that the annual Graduate – Supervisor dinner and a Scholarship for Graduates at Univ carry his name.

His research work will be remembered for contributions to the understanding of the metabolism of herbicides and membrane transport of phosphate, but also for his encouragement and support of academics in his field in Eastern Europe, particularly the Czech Republic. Brian married his childhood sweetheart, Jean and they have three children, who survive them. At his retirement (although he continued to serve Univ into his eighties as Dean of Degrees), Professor Michael Yudkin said ‘Never has a man so deserved the affection in which he is universally held’. Brian died peacefully at home in Stanton St John, in October 2019.

**MALCOM ROBERT MAIR (1944)** died on 7 June 2020, aged 93. He read Engineering. His son, Ian, has provided the following obituary written by his father:

He came to Downing from Palmers School in Essex, to read Engineering. Enjoying university life, despite the restrictions of post war austerity he was a member of the highly successful 1946 1st May eight, rowing at bow, competing at Henley and elsewhere. After graduating, he specialised, as a chartered civil engineer, in road-and bridge work and structural design, serving with local authorities before progressing to supervisory duties on the construction of major works including the Chiswick flyover in London and motorways in the Midlands. Moving to North Wales, where he spent 20 contented years, he had oversight during the 80's of much of the major development of road communications there. Marriage to Janis Male, in 1957, in Bramdean, Hampshire was the prelude to many years of domestic harmony before his wife died in 2015, leaving him with their four grandchildren and graduate sons, one of whom has achieved international recognition for his work in the development of Aquaculture whilst Professor of Biological Sciences of Flinders University, Adelaide whilst the other owned and ran his own successful business in West Wales.

---

**ANTHONY (TONY) JOHN MEAKIN (1949)** died on 1 April 2020, aged 91. He read Modern and Medieval Languages and Theology. His family writes:



Tony Meakin was born in what was then known as the County Borough of Rotherham, in 1928. He was educated at Rotherham Grammar School and was made Head Boy in his final year. He left school with a Borough Major Scholarship and entered into National Service, serving most of that time in the Intelligence Corps in Trieste. After demobilization, Tony applied to a group of Cambridge colleges under the Further Education and Training Scheme which gave a chance to ex-servicemen to be funded for further education. He well remembered his interview at Downing College with Bill Cuttle, the Senior Tutor in 1949. It was, apparently, very cordial and very brief. 'Exam results are fine. See you in October'. In early 1950 he was persuaded to join the Cambridge University Air Squadron flying out of Marshall's airport. Apparently, he only had one 'hairy' situation – pulling out of cloud at 165 knots in a pretty ancient Bristol Bulldog with a sluggish joystick!

After he graduated, he was accepted for training at Westcott House and was ordained deacon on 19 September 1954 in Newcastle Cathedral to serve his title in All Saint's Gosforth where he met his wife of more than 60 years, Ann. They

moved to Alnwick in 1960 where Tony was Vicar of St Paul's Church for 11 years and where they had three children. He joined the Territorial Army in which he served until he retired in 1983 (he was awarded the Territorial Decoration (TD) in 1976). It says a very great deal about the man that, even though he left the parish 50 years ago, he is still remembered with a great deal of affection by those of his friends who remain, but also by many of the younger people whose lives he touched.

He became Rector of Whickham and was quickly recognised in the diocese of Durham as a priest of integrity, warmth and wisdom. He became Rural Dean of Gateshead West, chaired a number of diocesan committees and was made an Honorary Canon of Durham Cathedral in 1983. Tony filled his church with people of all ages. He was a wonderful pastor to those in need, had a head for strategy and was, in the very best of ways, energised by young people as he guided their first tentative steps into a life-long journey of faith. He was unashamedly formed by the Parish Communion movement to lead churches which were outward looking.

His final years of paid ministry were served at Auckland Castle as Senior Chaplain to the Bishop of Durham and Executive Officer for Diocesan Affairs. He brought an extraordinary wisdom to the post working alongside the rather maverick Bishop David Jenkins. Tony retired in 1993 and was able to enjoy, with Ann, many travels and adventures all over the world, among other things completing 21 locums in chaplaincies in the Diocese in Europe.

---

**JOHN WILLIAM PASCOE-WATSON (1945)** died on 26 July 2019, aged 92. He read Engineering.

Mr Pascoe-Watson was born in 1927. He was head boy of Exmouth Grammar School and joined the town's Sea Cadets. He went up to Downing to do the Royal Air Force university short course in April-September, equivalent of 1st-year studies. He joined the RAF via the University's Air Squadron. He flew 26 different aircraft types during his career starting with Tiger Moths and ending with the fast jet Buccaneer. His Spitfire days formed the focus of his memoirs, *Laughter-Silvered Wings*. In it he documented the last time an RAF plane was shot down in air-to-air combat – involving his own 208 Squadron in the Middle East in 1949. He was awarded the Air Force Cross. On leaving the RAF he became a test pilot for the defence company Ferranti in Edinburgh. In the mid-1950s, Mr Pascoe-Watson rallied with former Formula One British world champion Jim Clark, acting as Clark's navigator.

He and his wife, Margaret, retired to Exmouth in 1993. Mr Pascoe-Watson volunteered for 11 years as a teaching assistant at Marpool Primary School. He was a founder member of the Exmouth Community Association and treasurer for

six years. He volunteered as a cataloguer of Exmouth Museum for 13 years and was involved with the town's talking newspaper for 10 years. His wife died 15 years ago. He is survived by his two sons and four grandchildren.

---

**JAMES CHARLES TAYLOR (1945)** died on 28 October 2019, aged 91. He read Natural Sciences.

---

**ALEXANDER WHEATON (1946)** died on 30 October 2019, aged 95. He read Law. His daughter, Julia, writes:



He was born Alexander Alexandrovich Pshenichnoff on the 18 July 1924 in Lambeth. Five years earlier his parents had arrived in England having fled the Bolshevik revolution in Russia, leaving behind his grandparents who were sadly never seen again. Alexander attended St Paul's School, where due to his completely unpronounceable surname, he was known to his friends interchangeably as Alec, Nick or Bill.

As a teenager he was evacuated during the war, but on coming of age he signed up and joined the war effort himself. As a lieutenant he was, towards the end of hostilities, seconded to British intelligence in Germany and Austria and attached to the American 82nd Airborne Division.

He came up to Downing having been awarded an exhibition to study Classics, later changing to Law. He made many lifelong friends during this time and greatly enjoyed singing in the Chapel Choir. Music, especially singing, was an abiding passion for him throughout his life. During the war he met Marjorie, a VAD nurse and they were married in 1948. His years at Downing were very special to him and he and Marjorie would frequently return to Cambridge to stay in their much-loved University Arms Hotel. On completing his studies, he and Marjorie moved to London where Alexander was called to the Bar, joining Gray's Inn and worked as a barrister for several years. In 1954 their daughter Julia was born and the family left London and relocated to Whitstable in Kent. He had by then joined the Civil Service and worked for the rest of his career in the Office of the Solicitor of the Inland Revenue in Somerset House.

He retired aged 60 and became the leader of a group of adult students, invited by the University of Kent to study the archaeology and vegetation of the ancient Blean woodlands, the second biggest area of woodland in Kent. He would frequently take his students out on expeditions where they would uncover



ancient ditches, examine ant hills and generally enjoy the peace, serenity and history of the ancient woods. In July 2002 he jointly edited a book entitled *The Woodlands of a Cathedral City*, contributing research which he had gathered through extensive study in Canterbury Cathedral and Lambeth Palace archives. His long-term friend and co-contributor was the well-known and pre-eminent scholar Dr Oliver Rackham. Alongside this work he became a Canterbury Cathedral guide, the go-to expert whenever Russian dignitaries needed a tour. Sadly, his health gradually declined in later years and he became less mobile, but always mentally alert and forever smiling. He died peacefully at home surrounded by his family, loved by all who knew him. He leaves his wife of 71 years, daughter, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

---

**ANTHONY TALBOT WILLIAMS (1942)** died on 11 August 2019, aged 95. He read Law. His son Simon and daughter Sarah, write:



Born in Cumberland Terrace, London in 1924, the third of four sons of two doctors educated in the Victorian/Edwardian scientific explosion with a strong history of sporting achievement. Tony started education from the family home at 25 Harley Street where “Miss Wade” taught a handful of children. From eight Tony was sent to Wycliffe College. Each Spring there would be a school expedition, one to Algeria, North Africa in 1938, commenced after the Williams’ had accommodated all

65 for the night in six-bed 25 Harley St on the way to the “Boat Train” to Marseille! At 18, in 1942, Tony went up to Downing to read Law, but this was short-lived as he took the first opportunity to join the RAF. He was described in an initial assessment as “keen and intelligent – poor eye-sight”. In normal circumstances this would have ended his chances, but a “blind eye” was turned and he was sent to train at Pensacola, USA. He began his RAF career flying Catalina Flying Boats in Coastal Command. His flying records show he flew 30 different aircraft and helicopters.

In 1946, he returned to Downing and, for the rest of his life, the College played a significant role for him. From the beginning he played an active part in all activities – in the College’s rugby boat (the 1948 oar still hangs at home), President of the Amalgamation Club in 1949/50 and a member (and passionate supporter of its re-launch in 2001) of the Griffin Club. Our childhood was full of stories of post-war student and rugby playing “japes” and wild times. He shared photographs and stories of his first vacation, a Grand Tour with fellow students and brother Chris, who arrived at Downing in 1948, travelling in a decommissioned military lorry through France, across the Pyrenees into Spain, thus being one of the first vehicles to cross the border after the end of hostilities.

After university, he turned back to his love for flying. He flew and served in most parts of the world finishing his time (1971) with the rank of Group Captain and as RAF Odiham station commander. He “retired” to the West Country with his young family to pursue his other love – property development. He continued to work with great energy and enthusiasm until he was 93. He swiftly embraced all changes in technology and relished anything digital. He built up his own companies developing many buildings across the country including Port Isaac, Rock, Bath and Hampstead, and closer to home in Somerset. It is clear from his life at Downing that it was at the College where he learnt to enjoy every part of his life. However, he also never forgot how lucky he was to have survived when many of his classmates didn’t return, a feeling which lay at the root of his optimism and determination to live life to the full and a lesson he left for us all.

---

**YONG PUNG HOW (1946)** died 9 January 2020, aged 93. He read Law.

Mr Yong was born on 11 April 1926 in Kuala Lumpur, the only son in a family of six children. While studying at Downing he became friends with Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore’s founding prime minister. After graduating, he qualified as a barrister in 1951. Mr Yong met Madam Cheang, a graduate of the London School of Economics, in 1950 while they were studying. They married in 1955. After returning to Kuala Lumpur in 1952, Mr Yong practised at his father’s firm, which expanded under his leadership. He was also a leading member of the Malayan Chinese Association and the Alliance Party, but withdrew from politics in 1959.

He migrated to Singapore with his family in 1969 and became a senior partner with the law firm of Shook Lin and Bok, which had been founded by his father until 1970. He then went into merchant banking and finance, ending up as chairman and chief executive of the Overseas-Chinese Banking Corporation. Mr Yong was offered the post of Supreme Court judge by Mr Lee in 1976, but he declined. He served on the Securities Industry Council from 1972 to 1981, the Board of Commissioners of Currency from 1982 to 1989 and was chairman of Singapore Broadcasting Corporation from 1985 to 1989. On a secondment from OCBC Bank from 1981 to 1983, Mr Yong helped form the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation – Singapore’s sovereign wealth fund – and became its managing director. He later became the managing director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

In 1989 he was appointed Supreme Court judge. The next year he was appointed Chief Justice. At that time there was a backlog of more than 2,000 cases. He introduced case management measures that cleared the backlog by the mid-1990s and reduced the time for cases to be concluded. In his 16 years as Singapore’s top judge, Mr Yong introduced sweeping changes and

harnessed technology to streamline court procedures. Mr Yong also produced the most number of judgments in the history of the Singapore Bench, with a total tally of 882 written judgments. He retired in 2006 at the age of 80. He is survived by his wife, Madam Cheang Wei-Woo, and their daughter, **Ms Yong Ying-I (1982)**, who is permanent secretary at the Ministry of Communications and Information.

## 1950's

**EDWARD CHARLES LEIGH ALLEN (1956)** died on 16 May 2020, aged 83. He read Law. His son, Edward, writes:



From his days at Bedford School he was always busy at prize giving, normally receiving accolades for both sporting and academic excellence. His sense of duty started early and he rose to become an officer within the school or a monitor as they were called. Academic success continued; he was not yet 18 when he took up a place to study Law at Downing. Following and followed by his brothers Dick and Michael respectively. Dad talked fondly of his time at College and shared

stories of his days there. His boxing blue blazer adorns his grandson James's bedroom wall and he spoke of an occasion when during a match against Oxford, he fell into conversation with a 'dark blue' boxer, discussing what they would do after leaving university. Dad shared his plan to work for an international company; the Oxford opponent declared that this sounded far too much like hard work...he was off to Hollywood and did indeed achieve fame there, being Kris Kristofferson – much to Dad's amusement.

After completing his degree, Dad's adventures took him not to La La Land, but first to Germany as a pilot officer, for his National Service and then having joined Shell as an International Officer to West Africa, accompanied by his beautiful young bride Patricia, fresh from Paris. They spent time in Nigeria, Cameroon and Zambia before switching 'Heat and Dust' for 'Heat and Damp' in the Far East - in Hong Kong and Taiwan. The expatriate life in the 60s and 70's was a very happy time for Mum and Dad with a strong social circle, cocktail parties, sporting events and hard work. A lesson in work life balance that, I think, we all can learn from.

Returning to Bedford and retirement offered no less activity. Dad became involved with many charities and committees, including Biddenham Council, RELATE, the Frederick Ray Trust, St John's Trust and the local pond committee

supporting his lifelong interest in bird watching inherited from his father. A modest and selfless man he took pleasure in doing things that would benefit others and had a scrupulous sense of fairness even down to returning change, when given too much, to shopkeepers with a smile and wink.

Family have been a great source happiness for Dad and Mum and he was never happier when at simple family gatherings of all his children and grandchildren – Jack, Lucy, Tiffany, Harriet, Hugo and James. The harmony and humour at such occasions meant a great deal to him and he loved us all dearly and equally. Mum, the source of much laughter, was a constant companion and loving wife, as 58 years of marriage bears testament. An active member of Biddenham Church before attending St Andrews, which provided him solace in his last more difficult years. Not being able to eat and drink were understandably hard to bear, but stoic to the end he gave very little away as to how tough it must have been for him.

---

**JOHN BERRY (1955)** died on 25 March 2020, aged 90. He read Modern Languages. He entered the church, in due course becoming a Canon and in 2014 he celebrated his Diamond Jubilee.

---

**HARRY JOHN BONNING (1952)** died on 16 October 2019, aged 86. He read Mechanical Sciences. His son, Harry, writes:

Having won the Queen's Sword in 1952 as the top cadet at Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, Harry attended Downing College courtesy of the Navy. A strong career followed rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander before resigning his commission to emigrate with his wife and four children to Auckland, New Zealand in 1970; a move of great sacrifice for someone who cherished the British and naval life. In New Zealand Harry continued his engineering career across a number of industries, including Air New Zealand, helping them introduce the McDonnell Douglas DC10. He retired in 1998, having sold his engineering business specialising in vibration-resistant building systems in earthquake prone New Zealand. Harry lost his eldest daughter to multiple sclerosis in 2005 and is survived by his wife Anne, children Liz, John and Andrew, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

**JOHN ANTHONY CHURCHILL (1956)** died on 9 January 2020, aged 83.  
He read Economics.

He attended Marlborough College before Downing. After Cambridge he worked as a financial journalist with the Express Group and the Financial Times. His spare time was spent sailing and in 1969 he was asked by Ted Heath, the leader of the Conservative Party, to select a crew for Heath's boat Morning Cloud. Churchill navigated the boat to victory in that year's Sydney-Hobart race. In 1969 Churchill and his friend Guy Pearce conceived the idea of what became the Whitbread round-the-world race. The first race started on 8 September 1973 and consisted of 17 yachts. In the early 1970s he was part of the Morning Cloud crew when it won three Isle of Wight Round the Island races and part of the British team that won the Admiral's Cup in 1971. That year he also took responsibility for Seahorse, the Royal Ocean Racing Club's house magazine. His interest in publishing resulted in Ocean Publications which produced a number of publications focusing on various sports and arts. After Morning Cloud Churchill increasingly sailed classic boats. He was a trustee of the World Ship Trust and helped arrange for tall ship Vanadis to race in the 150th anniversary of the America's Cup in 2001. In 2003 he moved to the Isle of Wight. In 2013 he organised an celebration of the 140th anniversary of Winston Churchill's parents first meeting at a royal gala off Cowes, which was attended by many of his descendants. Two years later he published Winston's Island, detailing the Churchill family's ties to the island.

---

**JOHN MICHAEL SEYMOUR COLE (1952)** died on 29 August 2019, aged 87. He read Estate Management.

---

**ALISTAIR ABERDEIN CONN (1957)** died on 26 March 2020, aged 82.  
He read History.

Mr Conn retired in September 2002 from full-time ministry having worked in West Hartlepool, School Chaplaincies in Uganda, Shrewsbury and Scotland and had two parochial appointments in Nottinghamshire.

---

**MICHAEL EWART CURRAH (1951)** died on 9 February 2020, aged 88.  
He read Theology.

**TERRANCE WILLIAM DICKS (1954)** died on 29 August 2019, aged 84.

He read English. His wife, Elsa, writes:



Terrance was born in East Ham, London, on 14 April 1935. As a child he took refuge from the busy life of the pub his parents kept spending happy hours in East Ham library. It was there that he developed his passion for books, particularly Dickens, Kipling, Buchan and classic, crime, adventure and thrillers. He went to East Ham Grammar School where he did so well in English that his teacher Dr Whitely told him "You boy are going to Cambridge." And so he did along with three other East

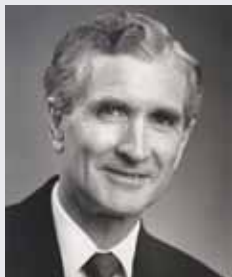
Ham boys, Simon Goldstein, Don Walton and Richard Mansfield. Terrance went to Downing on an English Exhibition Scholarship. He thrived at university, where the views on English prose and the critiques of his tutor Dr F R Leavis left a lasting impression that helped him to become a writer himself and to shape a clear strong style of his own.

After Cambridge Terrance did National Service in the Royal Fusilliers, stationed first in the Tower of London, then briefly on the Russian course at Crail, which he did not complete as homework and revision were never his forte and finally, a lance corporal, at Purfleet in Essex where he ran an army canteen. He met his wife Elsa at Butlins, Clacton, where they were both on a holiday job. They married in 1963 and raised their three sons, living at four addresses in one Hampstead street in London, which he said he would never leave. Terrance worked as a copywriter which, to his surprise, he did well, before moving on to radio and TV, on Crossroads and The Avengers and then Dr Who in the Pertwee years, writing and script editing numerous programmes including the Five Doctors, Robot, the first Tom Baker programme and his own two Dr Who theatre plays. He is credited along with his producer and great friend Barry Letts, with strengthening and saving the Dr Who show from extinction and then the successful novelisations of his own and other Dr Who stories for Target Books. He followed Barry into TV production for the classic serial including David Copperfield for which they were both nominated for a BAFTA.

After he retired from TV he continued to enjoy working with an audience, speaking at Dr Who fan conferences in UK, USA and Australia, at schools and libraries all over the United Kingdom and at the Edinburgh Book Festival, which he loved. He also taught TV production in Germany. More recently he was delighted to return to Downing to speak about his work in TV. Early in his writing career Terrance had begun writing numerous books for young readers, many of whom said that he had helped them to learn to read and even inspired them to become writers themselves. With a total output of some 200 books, often working through the night, he wrote his last Dr Who story just four months before he died. He never missed a deadline.



**GERALD DOLLING (1954)** died on 1 December 2018, aged 83. He read Natural Sciences. His wife, Sheila, writes:



Gerald was born in Dunstable on November 21, 1935. He was educated at the local grammar school before going to Cambridge, graduating from there with a PhD in 1961. It was while working on his PhD thesis that he became interested in the research being conducted on condensed matter physics using neutron scattering techniques at Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd (AECL). He decided to apply for a job and was offered one as an assistant research officer in the physics division. He accepted and arrived in Canada as a landed immigrant in the middle of August 1961 ready to begin his professional career. Previous work experience consisted of summer student jobs, including being a farm labourer, a milkman and a bus conductor.

During his career at AECL he became an expert in lattice dynamics, working on metals, semiconductors and alloys. He authored numerous papers and wrote five book chapters. He strongly supported research into industrial applications of neutron scattering, a field he helped pioneer in the early 1980's. He retired as vice-president of the research company of AECL in 1995. Besides work Gerald, always participated in many sports and activities. Shortly after arriving in Canada he took his first ski lesson using a pair of wooden skis and lace-up boots. He became a keen skier especially enjoying the powder. Whistler was his favourite ski destination. He became a Level 2 ski instructor and for many years taught adult classes at the local ski hill. During the summer he sailed a 505 racing dinghy participating in local races and regattas. He also enjoyed windsurfing spending many spring and fall vacations with friends and family in Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. He also liked to read, listen to music, solve the Guardian Weekly cryptic crosswords and sudokus.

After retirement, he became a volunteer driver for several organizations. He joined the local mountain bike group, went cross-country skiing and helped look after the grandchildren. Gerald loved Canada sometimes remarking that emigrating here was one of the best decisions he ever made. He felt most fortunate to have a job he loved, to live in a peaceful country and be surrounded by beautiful scenery. For several years he had been in declining health before passing away peacefully.

---

**JOHN DUCKWORTH (1952)** died on 21 April 2020, aged 88 He read Law followed by Economics.

**GERALD JOSEPH GOODHART (1950)** died on 7 May 2020, aged 90. He read Mathematics. The following obituary first appeared in *Research Live* and is reproduced with their kind permission:

Gerald Goodhardt was not only a powerful influence in the Market Research Society, but a towering figure in the industry, responsible with his colleague, Andrew Ehrenberg, for seminal new thinking about laws of marketing and consumer and audience behaviour. When he moved from business to academia, he inspired his students in the understanding of market and social research and how it could be used for the benefit of organisations. Gerald served on the MRS Council for many years, becoming chairman of the publications committee and in 1973, chairman of the Society. The Market Research Society awarded him its Gold Medal for outstanding work in the field not once, but twice (in 1967 and 1996), the only person to have been so honoured.

Gerald's towering intellect allowed him to win scholarships to both Marylebone Grammar School and Downing College, Cambridge which would otherwise have been beyond the reach of his parents, whose business life was based on tailoring and dry cleaning. Following a degree in Mathematics, and a graduate diploma in Statistics, during his national service he was tasked with devising a test which would weed out those with an intelligence level too low to allow them to serve, which would simultaneously detect those who were deliberately trying to fail.

His early market research career began with Attwoods Statistics, followed by the research department of the advertising agency Young & Rubicam. In 1965, Gerald joined Andrew Ehrenberg in his market research consultancy, Aske Research, which had as clients many of the blue-chip British companies; e.g. Mars, Cadbury-Schweppes, Shell and Unilever. When Andrew left in 1970 to become professor of marketing at the London Business School, Martin Collins joined Gerald at Aske. But Gerald also moved to academia, with a readership at Thames Polytechnic in 1975. In 1981, he became the Sir John E Cohen Professor of Consumer Studies at City University, raising the level of its MBA programme to an international standard.

Gerald and Andrew's joint work in formulating the Laws of Marketing and modelling consumer and audience behaviour was seminal. In 2016, a Dutch marketing expert – Wiemar Snijders – wrote an article comparing the work Gerald and Andrew had done with the work of Isaac Newton. While Newton described the natural laws by which the physical world operates, Ehrenberg and Goodhardt explained how the world of brands and business work, with similar accuracy. According to Snijders, their work has similar significance. The University of South Australia established an entire school of marketing science based on the work done by them. They named the school after Ehrenberg, and in 2015, on the occasion when they awarded Gerald an honorary doctorate, established an annual Goodhardt Fellowship, which will now be an appropriate memorial to him.

Gerald was a founding trustee of the Market Research Benevolent Association (MRBA) and a prime mover in its establishment. He continued to support the work of the MRBA and indeed many other charities throughout his lifetime. He would have been pleased to know that the MRBA is able to help researchers in this current crisis.

---

**HENRY GRAYSTONE (1953)** died on 17 December 2019, aged 91. He read Mathematics. His nephew, Peter, writes:



Henry Graystone was born 24 November 1928 in Hull, the seventh of eight children. His parents had converted to Catholicism before their marriage; of the five sons, three became priests of the Marist order. After evacuation with his school in World War Two, Henry entered training for the priesthood in 1946 and was ordained on 28 June 1953. He had been impressed by the young Marist priests at his school, and also very much wanted to teach maths – the Marists being a teaching order. As the third and youngest Graystone brother in the order, he remembered being known for a while as ‘Father Graystone’s other brother’.

Henry studied Mathematics at Downing College from 1953 to 1956. Thereafter, he progressed in teaching to become headmaster of St Mary’s College, Middlesbrough, from 1966 to 1977. He was Provincial of the Marist Order in England from 1977 to 1981, a stint which was cut short by a traumatic car crash which left him with serious injuries, needing a dozen major operations. After recovery, he worked in teaching or as a parish priest according to the needs of his order, until retirement in 2006 at the age of 78. His final years were spent in community in Blackburn. Henry had a special interest in family history, in the study of which I joined him in the 1980s. Together, we traced the Graystone line back to a certain James Graystone (c.1780–1843) who was an under-butler to the first Duke of Wellington.

---

**WILLIAM NEIL CLOWES HARDMAN (1956)** on 17 January 2020, aged 84. He read Agriculture Sciences. He became head of an agricultural college in Yorkshire and was a keen golfer.

**PETER MICHAEL HEAD (1954)** died on 11 June 2019, aged 85. He read Law. His daughter Sally and grand-daughter Emily write:



Peter Head was born 18th February 1935. He was a Solicitor and an Olympian. He attended Leyton County High School and became a keen swimmer. By the age of 15 he was competing at national county level. At 17 he swam in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, 400m freestyle and 200m relay race, at the 1954 Vancouver Commonwealth Games he swam in the 110 yds freestyle and 440 yds relay and the same year he also swam at the European Championships in Turin. When he started studying at Downing he continued to compete in basketball and swimming for the Light Blues, with his best performance at the World University Games in Paris 1957 where he came 2nd in both the 100m and 400m freestyle. He became Captain of the Cambridge University Swimming and Water Polo teams.

Whilst studying at Downing in 1957 he was lucky enough to be selected for an England team to tour China. Peter said the air safety on the plane was almost non-existent – He and his friends, were still standing in the gangway, when the plane took off with a jolt before they knew what was happening! When the plane stopped over in Russia it skidded off of the runway onto very bumpy turf and eventually soldiers appeared and arrested the pilot for crashing the plane! He had the unique opportunity to see many different cultures and a Communist country first-hand, which resulted in him remembering it as one of the most interesting trips he had ever experienced.

He qualified as a solicitor in 1960 and became a partner with Foskett Marr in Loughton from 1961. He married Ann and had three children and eight grandchildren. He eventually retired to Norfolk in 2005, which had long been his favourite place, full of memories of happy times with his family. When Peter gave up his competitive swimming, he impressively continued to play water polo into his 80s, making firm friendships with his much younger teammates at Norwich Water Polo Club, which he said, in turn, made him feel young. He was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer in May 2019 and succumbed to the illness in little over two weeks. He was so well-read and well-informed – he could tell you something about anything. He was cheeky, humorous, generous and above all he had a passionate sense of fairness.

**JOHN GEOFFREY HICKS (1955)** died on 21 October 2019, aged 83. He read Mechanical Sciences. Having spoken to family and friends former President and Secretary of the Association, **Barrie Hunt (1966)**, writes:



John was born on 7 April 1936 in Surrey. His father was an RAF Officer who served in Cambridgeshire during WW2 and it was during the war that his life-long interest in aviation began. After the war, John attended the Perse School where he developed this interest – joining the cadets and learning to fly a glider solo. In 1954, John left school to take up a student apprenticeship with Vickers-Armstrongs (Aircraft) on a “thick sandwich course”, which took him to Downing in 1955 to read Mechanical Sciences,

specialising in Aeronautics and gaining a first in his final year. Following graduation in 1958, he returned to Vickers, which, in 1960, merged to become the giant British Aircraft Corporation. There he worked on the aerodynamics of the ill-fated TSR and dryly described one of his jobs as “trying to tear the wings off a VC10 airliner”.

After six years, he left the aircraft industry and joined the British Welding Research Association, now known as The Welding Institute. There he became a specialist in welding and metal fatigue. His book, *Welding Joint Design*, first published in 1979, was the standard textbook in its time. On leaving The Welding Institute in 1975, John spent a year with a large firm of consulting engineers before setting up his own specialist consultancy on welded construction which he pursued for over thirty years. He worked on a range of high-profile projects including North Sea Oil platforms, the Jubilee line extension, the Millennium Dome, the London Eye, the Thames Barrier and the nuclear submarine re-fitting facilities at Devonport and Rosyth Dockyards. His work took him around the world and, whilst working in Western Australia, he met his second wife, Janet. John’s working life took a further twist in 1987 when he was invited by the Treasury to join a unit designed to improve value for money in Central Government purchasing. In 1990, approaching retirement age, he was elected to a Fellowship of the Royal Academy of Engineering and, in the same year, he became part-time Secretary General for the International Institute of Welding, based in Cambridge and Paris. Eventually, after six years, he resumed his consultancy activities which, as well as examining, included lecturing in aircraft safety at Cranfield University.

In retirement, he renewed his interest in aviation, acting as an informal consultant to Duxford restoration projects, including Spitfires. Meanwhile, as a local, John had maintained his relationship with Downing, encouraged by his former tutor, the late Professor Austyn Mair, who invited him to High Table whilst he was at the Welding Institute. He was immensely proud to be a member of the College and was delighted when his younger son, Peter, gained both his PGCE and MEd there. In 1998 he took on the substantial role of Secretary of the Alumni Association and Editor of its annual Newsletter. As a consequence, the

College elected him a Fellow Commoner, and he immersed himself in College life including making a vital contribution as umpire in the annual Staff v Fellows Cricket Match.

When John took over the Association there was just a small active core but, over time, his increasing contacts, both within the Fellowship and alumni, enabled him to build the Executive to a point where it could sustain a merchandising operation with an annual surplus of £10,000, now used to support dozens of students a year through the Alumni Student Fund. During his 12-year term as Secretary, he skilfully worked to blend the work of Association with that of the newly formed College Development Office. It is to his credit that, almost uniquely amongst Cambridge colleges, the Downing Association remains an independent alumni-run body.

He and Janet always enjoyed attending College events. Janet's death in 2014 hit him hard but he made great efforts to remain active, belonging to a wine society that met in College, running the publicity for the City of Cambridge Symphony Orchestra, attending NSPCC lunches, singing with a local choir and taking up watercolour painting. John was a good, kind and courteous man, well respected in his community and his profession. He died from a brain lesion in the Arthur Rank Hospice in Cambridge. His final few months were difficult, but at the end, he would have been able to look back on his life with great pride and will be fondly remembered by many. He leaves two sons, David and Peter (2008).

---

**MICHAEL DAVID HOLMES (1959)** died on 13 December 2019, aged 79. He read History.

---

**BERNARD ANTHONY KELLY (1953)** died on 12 February 2020, aged 86. He read Law. His wife, Myra, writes:



Bernard was born on 25 April 1933 in Cheshire. He attended Prior Park College, Bath, where he had a flair for acting and was made Head Boy. In 1951, he was called up for National Service. He was commissioned in the 16/5th Queen's Royal Lancers and served with them in Tripoli. Bernard went on to read Law at Downing. He loved his time at Cambridge and often went back to his old College. In fact, he spent his last holiday visiting his grandson, Tommy, in his first year at Gonville and Caius. He enjoyed walking around Downing's beautiful grounds and had his photo taken outside his old room. He was accompanied by his wife, his son, Jonathan (also a Downing Law alumnus) and two granddaughters.

After his degree, Bernard was called to the Bar and then joined ICI. He also practised as a barrister and solicitor in British Columbia, Canada. Most of his career was spent at Mobil, which he joined in 1962. He soon became Head of the Legal Department and in 1987 was appointed to the Board of Directors of Mobil Oil Co Ltd and associated companies. In 1991, Bernard was appointed Q.C. After retiring in 1994, he served as part-time Chairman of Employment Tribunals for ten years.

One of Bernard's great interests was being a member of the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry (BACFI). He was appointed Chairman in 1985 and afterwards remained a Vice President for the rest of his life. He enjoyed meeting up with friends and colleagues at BACFI's social events and even attended a lunch with them in London four days before he died. Bernard was a governor of his old school, Prior Park College, from 1995–2004, a role that was very close to his heart. He loved playing squash with friends in his earlier years and in later life was a great walker. He was a deeply cultured man with a passion for literature, art, the theatre and Roman history. He was actively involved in his local community, chairing the Cobham Conservative Association and supporting the Sacred Heart Church. Bernard was imposingly tall and always smartly dressed, a true English gentleman. For all his abilities, he was a modest man with a strong sense of duty and compassion for others, who supported numerous charities. He was a devoted husband and father and we valued his insight and wisdom. At the same time, he had a great sense of humour. We loved his company and all miss him greatly. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, his children – James, Jonathan and Elizabeth – and his five grandchildren.

---

**GRANVILLE JOHN KING (1952)** died on 13 December 2019, aged 87. He read History and Theology. His daughter, Alison, writes:



John, born in Wembley, was the second son in a family of three boys and three girls. They moved in 1936 to Digswell near Welwyn Garden City. John, along with one of his brothers, attended Alleynes Boys Grammar School, Stevenage, travelling there by steam train. They would only leave home when they heard the train crossing the Digswell viaduct, race to the station and arrive just in time, although occasionally they didn't have time to use the footbridge to cross the tracks.

After qualifying as an RAF Navigator during his National Service in Canada he went up to Downing College to read History and Theology. In 1956 he became a member of both the Griffins Club and Alverstone Club, in recognition of his achievements in hockey and for completing the 120 yards high hurdles in under



16.4 seconds. He was a key member of CICCUC (Cambridge Intercollegiate Christian Union), taking on the executive role of Mission Prayer Secretary. It was in CICCUC he met his first wife Jan. They had three children and six grandchildren. John had a lifelong love and respect for the writings of C S Lewis. Whilst he was at Cambridge, C S Lewis was Chair of Medieval and Renaissance Literature. John decided that “a cat may look at a King”, so he invited C S Lewis to tea in his room. To his delight the invitation was accepted.

After graduation John taught in the United States for a year. He then returned to the UK for a successful career in business management. Initially he worked with Norvic and Reeds Paper, then was a systems analyst at IBM until his retirement in 1992. His years in Cambridge gave him a lifelong love and commitment to his Christian faith, to academic scrutiny, singing, art, sport and the Griffins. Every house he lived in had a prominent griffin. No visit to Cambridge was complete without a Fitzbillies Chelsea Bun! In his retirement he married his second wife Anne, they moved to Belsize, near Rickmansworth. He was an active member of his local church, where he ran successful *Breakfasts for Men* for many years with excellent speakers from the wider Christian community. He was a prolific painter throughout his adult life, and his paintings were often to be seen in the Chipperfield Horticultural shows and for many years he sang with the Chiltern Choir and the St Paul's Church choir.

---

**MICHAEL EDMUND JOLY DE LOTBINIESE (1951)** died on 1 March 2020, aged 88. He read Economics followed by Estate Management.

---

**JOHN TOFT MAINWARING (1950)** died on 6 September 2019, aged 88. He read Natural Sciences. His career had been as a General Practitioner.

**EDWIN MOWFORTH (1952)** died on 28 December 2018, aged 87. He read Engineering. **Trevor Walker (1956)** writes:



Edwin came from a family of engineers and followed that profession. Outwardly a very quiet, unassuming man he had diverse passions and obsessions, particularly, lighter-than-air transport. His three children all studied and qualified in engineering, though all did not follow directly in his footsteps for much of their careers. Edwin attended Scunthorpe Grammar School before arriving at Downing. After two years at Downing he embarked on a back-packing holiday

in Morocco and contracted a powerful, and then new, strain of tuberculosis. Invalided back to UK very seriously ill he was treated for months at Glenfield Hospital, Leicester where he lost two ribs and a lung but gained a wife – a German nursing sister called Liselotte ‘Lilo’ Schütz. After recovery he resumed his studies at Downing for Year 3 in 1956–7, where, despite having a pronounced humped shoulder for life, he was able to play squash and assisted the Downing Jabberwocks theatre group (fronted by Joe Melia) using his excellent drawing and cartoon skills and revealed a wicked sense of humour.

He graduated with 1st Class honours, married Lilo and got his first job at the De Havilland Aeroplane Co., Hatfield where they set up home, had a daughter and a son and he became fluent in German thanks to his wife and frequent visits to her family in the Black Forest. Later he related little about his time at De Havilland except proudly claiming to have designed the toilet window of the ill-fated Comet jet airliner. Edwin moved from working in industry to Hatfield Polytechnic where he taught aircraft engineering. In 1968 he was appointed to the Faculty of Science at the new University of Sussex and continued to teach aeronautical engineering. He gained a PhD as an external student of London University and the family moved to Womersley in Surrey where a second son was born and stayed there until c. 1994.

On retirement from full-time teaching and examining work at Surrey University he gave invited lectures elsewhere on Dynamics & Design and ran a post-graduate course on stress analysis in biomedical engineering while editing the journal *Wind Engineering*. He was acknowledged as the foremost authority on the history of European airships and his quietly spoken, but spectacular presentations and accounts were in much demand among groups of enthusiasts world-wide. Most importantly he was also allowed to continue using University of Surrey facilities such as wind tunnels for his airship design work while consulting and being heavily involved with various established firms in UK and Germany. In the 1970's and 80's many groups sought the “holy grail” of overland heavy transport – very large dirigibles – the lighter-than-air devices in which he believed passionately. One such project was the *CargoLifter* fabricated

in Wiesbaden, to which Edwin was the head designer. Their vision was to have the dirigibles flying at a very low level carrying extreme loads thus ridding roads of “exceptional vehicle” convoys. Edwin worked on airship design until well into his 80’s, but developed a terminal brain condition. He was outlived by his widow Lelia, former wife Lilo (until 2020) and children Heidi, Mark and John and their offspring.

---

**NORMAN BASIL NATHAN (1951)** died on 4 April 2020, aged 87. He read Mathematics followed by Natural Sciences.

---

**MICHAEL JOHN O’CARROLL (1958)** died on 22 November 2019, aged 79. He read Mathematics. His family and friends write:



Mike was born in Coventry on 10 March 1940, the son of Fay and Bernard O’Carroll. He won a scholarship to King Henry VIII school, where he made lasting friends – and where he shone academically, particularly at mathematics. Weightlifting was a lifelong passion, something which occupied Mike from the age of sixteen until well into his seventies. He won many trophies and used his mathematical abilities to devise an equitable scoring system for the sport. To this day

weightlifters are judged according to the O’Carroll Formula. Mike also boxed and he took part in a boxing match at the Cambridge Corn Exchange. In 1958, Mike went up to Downing College to read Mathematics. In the holidays he had various part-time jobs, including selling ice cream and vacuum cleaners. During the latter he met his lifelong love, Pat. They married on 23 December 1961. In 1962 Mike’s job took them to Australia for three years. On their return from Australia Mike and Pat settled in Ashby Parva – their family made complete, over time, by the arrival of Leonie, Heather, Sean and Michael. Mike threw himself into community activities, including the local amateur dramatics society and devising the Ashby Parva ball game as part of the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations.

In time, Mike left the private sector for academia. He lectured at Lanchester Polytechnic, where he achieved his doctorate; he was head of the Mathematics department at Teesside Polytechnic and he finished a distinguished academic career as Pro-Vice Chancellor at Sunderland University, gaining his professorship for his work in forging international links. He wrote many books and articles and set up two private publishing companies – not for profit, but to ensure that things were done ethically. He travelled a lot and he took Pat with him as often as he could – they had some fantastic trips to Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and Italy.

The family moved to Welbury in 1978. Mike was, again, pivotal within the local community. As part of the Millennium Project, he jointly collated and published the history of the village and its farming families. He set up the online Wel-e-News, producing ninety-nine editions and one thousand bulletins. He organised local sports days and an annual welly-wanging competition, with a live link to the market town of Wellington in Somerset. He organised the annual Welbury Christmas lecture, now named after him, inviting colleagues to give entertaining, informative talks. His dislike of exploitation and concerns regarding the safety of electro-magnetic fields led him to set up the Revolt movement, opposing the use of overhead pylons across the Yorkshire countryside and he once stood as an independent candidate for the local county council. In and amongst all this, Mike remained fit and active: alongside his weight training he loved running – he went out in all weathers and he completed the both Great North Run and the Lyke Wake run several times.

---

**EDWARD ANTONY PEARSON (1958)** died on 28 April 2020, aged 88. He read Natural Sciences.

Canon Alec Barrass has informed us that after graduating, Father Pearson taught physics and chemistry at Ushaw College, Durham until 1973. He then became parish priest at one of the Catholic churches in Leeds, moving later to be parish priest at Ilkley until his retirement.

---

**JOHN EDWARD PENTELOW (1954)** died on 20 December 2019, aged 85. He read Chemistry. His son, Keith, writes:

After leaving Downing he worked for Boots until his retirement in 1996. During his time at Boots he continued to study: 1959 – M A (Cantab), 1963 – Royal Institute of Chemistry Diploma in Applied Chemistry, 1968 – Master of Pharmaceutical Analysis by Examination, 1970 – Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Between 1975 and 1995 he delivered lectures on pharmaceutical packaging in various centres in England, Wales and Scotland.

Between 1981 and 1988 he was the UK delegate to the European Pharmacopoeia in Strasbourg on 'Plastic Containers for Pharmaceutical Use' much of this work focussing on the plastics being introduced for use in intravenous bags. He leaves his wife, Pamela, daughter Sheila, son Keith, three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

**IAN PLIMMER (1956)** died on 3 December 2019, aged 81. He read Geography. His wife, Janet, writes:



Born on Christmas Eve 1937 in Pudsey, West Yorkshire Ian was brought up in Morley where his father was a detective with the police force. He later attended Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield where he became Head Boy. Encouraged to sit the Cambridge Scholarship examinations he heard he had been awarded an Open Exhibition in Geography just before Christmas. Downing was to become one of the most rewarding experiences of his life opening up the many opportunities, three years filled with so many happy activities and those college friendships which would last a lifetime. His ambition to fly was fulfilled in the University Air Squadron and ending with a private pilot's licence. Sport played a great part of his life too with much cricket and rugby followed by the odd jar or two at the Fountain Inn! Somehow a degree followed (his words).

After a presentation in the Guildhall on the Overseas Civil Service Ian decided to seek a place in the South Pacific after he had completed his National Service. This he spent at Feltwell, Norfolk on a joint RAF/USAF Thor Missile base, as Education Officer, in the middle of the Cold War, a very interesting time indeed! A year at Oxford and Lincoln College in preparation for his term in the Solomon Islands followed including weekly trips to London to learn Gilbertese from a retired missionary who really put him and his companion through the mill! After a six week journey by sea and air he and Jane arrived for his posting in Honiara on Guadalcanal landing on the grass runway lit by the car headlights of as many cars as could be mustered. Both children, Andrew and Helen, were born out there. Two terms were completed, Ian spending a great deal of time 'on tour' by foot or sea visiting the remote districts and many islands. He helped introduce rugby and prepare teams for the South Pacific Games. He also helped to introduce elections which led to the Executive Council and eventual Independence.

Returning to England and teaching appointments in Exeter and Portishead Bristol, Ian was appointed Head, in 1983, to Bingley Grammar School in Yorkshire. Here he encouraged all outdoor sports and pursuits at the school and continued with his love of climbing and cricket when he could. During this he was very proud when Helen became Captain of the Women's Cricket Association tours of Australia and New Zealand and played in the winning World Cup team at Lord's. After 15 productive and happy years at Bingley retirement called and he and Jane moved to Austwick in the Dales National Park. Here he enjoyed and helped with the many village activities. This enjoyable life was brought to an unexpected end when just after his 81st birthday he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He died at home on 3rd December 2019, keeping active until the end.

**PETER BRIAN POULSON (1956)** died on 5 April 2020, aged 82. He read Natural Sciences. His daughter, Rachel, writes:



Brian Poulson was born on the 31 July 1937 in St Albans, Hertfordshire. Having attended St Albans Grammar School where he excelled in both Mathematics and Sciences, Brian won a scholarship to Downing. He then devoted his working life to the application of science to building, construction and highway engineering. His first post was at Rickmansworth as a research chemist for Cementation Research (1959–68) concentrating on construction and mining processes. At Cementation

Chemicals in Norbury, South London, (1968–72), he became a Technical Manager focusing on industrial flooring, structural waterproofing, and concrete repair.

Brian was able to specialise as the General Manager for Technical and Marketing for Redland Prismo at Rowfant, (1972–81) in road markings, specialist surfacings and joint sealants. He was particularly proud of the work he undertook in Japan, the USA and at Tehran Airport. From squash courts to international motorways, his research, laboratory development and applied learning were bearing fruit. He became technical director at Fosroc in Leighton Buzzard (1981–84), specialising in international mining chemicals and resin products and then moved to Prodorite in Wednesbury, West Midlands (1984–90). This was a smaller national firm specialising in industrial floorings, concrete repair and specialist coating products. He was to enjoy some of the most productive and fulfilling years of his working life in the Black Country, where he felt welcomed and at home. Brian's calm, analytical, scientific brain, became invaluable as an expert witness at the investigation into the King's Cross Underground Fire of 1987 chaired by Desmond Fennell. Brian was able to help disprove the initial belief that the paint provided by Prodorite had caused the disastrous flashover. In so doing, he contributed to evidencing the real lessons learnt by the enquiry.

In 1990 Brian moved back into the international business world with WR Grace, based in Slough, as Group Leader in the Industrial Flooring and Concrete Repair Division before becoming an independent consultant in 1995. The contacts he forged internationally became invaluable and his extensive technical knowledge was deployed with the generous enthusiasm of a life-long industrial chemist who perceived his labour as vocation. Brian's experience and technical expertise began to serve a wider scientific and commercial community and his horizons broadened beyond the UK. He became Technical Chairman of the Resin Flooring Association (FeRFA) and Secretary General of the European Federation of National Associations Representing producers and applicators of specialist building products for Concrete (EFNARC).

The former President of EFNARC, David Chapman, based in Belgium, paid tribute by declaring that, "Brian was incredibly knowledgeable in the field of

construction chemicals and was one of the people who helped create a billion-pound industry in the UK today". He went on to remark how Brian's contribution had been recognised more across Europe than in his own country, where he had been instrumental in the development of the European Construction Chemicals industry. He was happily married to Jan for 58 years and father to two children, Mark and Rachel; grandfather to six; a committed Christian and public servant.

---

**PHILIP NOEL ROBINSON (1951)** died on 10 June 2019, aged 94. He read English. He moved to Australia where in 1963 he opened Robinson's Bookshop in Frankston. After nearly 30 years the shop was sold following which 12 Robinson Bookshops were opened across Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. It is now Victoria's oldest independent bookshop.

---

**ROBERT CECIL SAUNDERS (1952)** died on 10 May 2020, aged 87. He read English.

---

**KWADZO EBLI SENANU (1957)** died on 21 May 2020, aged 86. He read English. His son, Edem, writes:

Prof. Kwadzo Senanu was born on 27 July 1933, in Agbozume, Volta Region to Mr. Hammond Jekete Senanu and Madam Amedzotsi Wormenor. He was married to Mrs. Ivy Christine Senanu (Neé Degbor) and they had four children including: Mr. Edem Senanu, Mr. Kris Senanu, Mr. Dzidzienyo Senanu, and Mrs. Karis Emefa Senanu-Adzosii. An educationist, Prof Senanu had his basic professional training in the humanities and combined this with extensive involvement in educational policy formulation, planning and administration in Ghana and Kenya, over a 30 plus year period. A brilliant student, the Education Department of the Gold Coast awarded him a certificate of distinction after he passed the primary school leaving examination as a pupil of Agbozume Some National School in October 1947. He went through Accra Academy and was subsequently one of the foundational students of Legon Hall, University College, Ghana, in October 1952 and graduated first class honours (BA) in English from the University of London – June 1957. Subsequently Kwadzo Senanu obtained a BA from Cambridge University, an MA from Yale University, USA and a PhD from Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on 7 June 1965.

Dr. Senanu was appointed as English Lecturer, University of Ghana from 1960–62, and 1965–67. He was a Senior Lecturer, University of Ghana, 1967–71



and a Schofield Fellow at Christ's College, Cambridge (September 1971 – October 1972). He was a visiting Senior Lecturer – University of Ibadan, Nigeria 1975–77. Associate Professor and Head of English Department, University of Ghana (1977–81), Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana (1981–83), Acting Vice Chancellor (September 1983 – December 1984), Life Member Clare Hall, Cambridge from October 1985 to date, Associate Professor University of Ghana (1986–88) and Full Professor, Moi University (1988–97), where he was a Professor of Social, Cultural and Development Studies.

---

**TREVOR ALAN LEON SMITH (1952)** died on 16 October 2019, aged 85. He read Natural Sciences.

---

**NORMAN SOFIER (1951)** died on 8 January 2020, aged 89. He read History. His daughter, Debbie, writes:



Norman began his life in the East End, the only child of parents Ann (nee Podolsky) and Hyman who were refugees from Eastern Europe and to whom he was very close. Whilst attending synagogue in Cambridge where the family later settled, Norman noticed a boy about his own age sitting alone; Zvi, a Kindertransport child was welcomed into the family, along with care and warm hospitality extended to Zvi's siblings and cousins. Norman greatly enjoyed both his years at the Perse

School and then studying History at Downing College, making dear lifelong friends with whom he had great fun. He relished the intellectual stimulation of his subject, and engaged energetically with many aspects of university life, including becoming President of the Jewish Society. In recent years he was delighted to see his granddaughter Miriam studying at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge.

After he graduated, he was a thoughtful and successful employment manager at the Vauxhall car factory in Dunstable. He then created the historical board game Saga, which he sold throughout the UK. Later on he also invented many other board games and combined them into a book called Cops and Robbers. He had a long and fulfilling career as a brilliant, inspirational and fun history teacher at Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School in St Albans. He also benefited his students greatly with his dedicated and insightful work as their careers teacher. He was greatly esteemed by his colleagues, who appreciated his kindness and wisdom.

Married to his adored wife Nena for 57 deeply happy years, Norman was a devoted father, father-in-law and grandfather. He was a valued member of the

wider family circle and successive generations of children delighted in his gentle jokes and memorable stories. Everyone was equal in Norman's eyes and his energetic determination to assist others transformed lives. His exceptional ability to help simply by listening and understanding brought comfort to many in his role as a Samaritans volunteer. He devoted his time to the local branch of the Council of Christians and Jews of which he was co-chair and also enjoyed being co-chair of the local Jewish Historical Society. Excelling at playing rugby union as captain of his school team, he remained an analytical follower of the national team. He and Nena had a joyful retirement appreciating being with their wide circle of friends and family, and enjoying time in the countryside, and some fascinating foreign travel. He is survived by Nena, his children Jon, Debbie and Ben and his grandchild Miriam.

---

**FRANCIS ROBERT MAX WEISS (1952)** died on 19 March 2020, aged 89. He read Natural Sciences. His son, Dominic, writes:



Francis was born in Leipzig to Hungarian and German Jewish parents, Ferenc and Margit. Shortly afterwards, many years before the Nazis came to power the Weiss family moved across Europe to settle in Beckenham, Kent. Francis had a happy multilingual childhood interrupted during the war by an evacuation with his mother and brother Niels to Scotland.

In 1950 Francis went up to Cambridge and studied Natural Sciences, Life Science and Botany, finishing with a year in Denmark working on a pig farm. During his undergraduate days he met Shirley. Frank knew this was the woman he wanted to marry the moment he saw her. They were together for 53 years and had three children, Dominic, Amanda and Jessica.

After working as a tenant farmer Francis bought his own dairy herd in Norfolk. He embraced the early starts and long hours and was involved in local politics. By 1965 Francis found the family sacrifices of running the farm were too great. He switched careers and began working as an export manager for a sheepskin footwear manufacturer in Somerset. He achieved the largest ever export order of boots for the company – to the USSR.

Never very good at working for others Francis began his own import/export business specialising in Italian shoes. He was the original European traveller to countries and towns that most knew very little of 40 to 50 years ago. He loved living on “the continent” as he called it. He was equally at home on the Somerset moors, an apartment on Lake Lugano, a flat in Belgium or a villa on the foothills of the Italian Apennines. His eight languages allowed him to move effortlessly

from one country to another where he would confidently communicate with his customers, factory owners and restaurateurs – anyone he came across – enthusiastically in their own tongue. No shyness or borders for Frank! Whether it was on the road in France or Italy dashing to an evening destination or standing for endless days at shoe fairs in Milan or Dusseldorf, Francis always guaranteed a good meal at the end of it. He was an adept gastronome and wine connoisseur, but without pretention – Frank knew what he liked but didn't boast about it.

As Francis' career and business network developed throughout Europe he was respected and liked by his professional colleagues. When he was taken seriously ill in Italy in the late 70's he was treated in Modena hospital for a month. Only Frank could end up best mates with his life-saving doctor and be invited to stay at his home afterwards. In later life when Alzheimer's took his wife from him, Francis volunteered for the Alzheimer's Society as a lay reviewer of their research. Frank was a popular member of the Downing Association for many years and was immensely proud to be awarded the honour of Vice President of the Association. He was instrumental in developing the Merchandise Working Group, which through the sale of College gifts all over the world, raised money for the Alumni Student Fund.

Even as his health deteriorated, Francis spent precious time with his family and three grandchildren – Lilly, Abby and Nicholas – sharing birthday and Christmas celebrations. He managed one final trip to Italy to meet up with old friends and visit the places he loved.

Frank Weiss MA

30 December 1930 – 19 March 2020

Year Rep for 1950

Co-opted member of Association's Executive 2005–2015

Life Vice-President 2016–2020

---

**RICHARD YEO (1952)** died on 1 December 2017, aged 83. He read Natural Sciences. For over 30 years he was Consultant General at Royal East Sussex Hospital and Director of Surgery and Head of Day Surgery at Conquest Hospital in Hastings.

## 1960's

**HOWARD NEIL BOYD (1963)** died on 17 October 2019, aged 75. He read Archaeology and Anthropology. His widow, Esther, writes:



Howard's interest in ancient history and archaeology started at primary school, as did his enthusiasm for cycling. He led classmates on rides at weekends to historical sites. These rides became longer and more adventurous at grammar school, staying in youth hostels.

His greatest adventure was his 'Grand Tour' in 1963, just before starting his degree. He cycled, with two friends and camping gear, 5,500 miles from south London heading for Abu Simbel in Egypt, which was to be submerged by the building of the Aswan Dam. The round trip took four months, through France, Switzerland, Italy, Yugoslavia and Greece. Sadly, when arriving at Aswan, the water level was too low for embarkation to the temple, so they returned without achieving their goal. They heard, on their return, that Unesco planned to raise the temple before the dam was built. A family trip to Abu Simbel in 2014 was Howard's last holiday. Traditional Boyd holidays were usually very enjoyable endurance tests. We cycled together across Iceland, over the Rocky Mountains, in Madagascar, in the Balkans and we cycled with the family in the UK and Europe.

Howard realised, before graduating, that financially rewarding jobs in archaeology were scarce and decided that a career in computing was a better option. His interest in computing started during a long vac visit to Mexico, where the National Anthropological Museum had a section on Computer Archaeology. He began work at IBM's headquarters in London, moving to Birmingham after meeting Esther on a dig. His subsequent career moved between computing and road safety, including an MSc in Traffic Engineering, at Birmingham University. In 2011, Howard was diagnosed with Dementia with Lewy Bodies (DLB), which is incurable. Sufferers' mobility can be improved by vigorous cycling which Howard did initially using a tricycle and then a static tandem.

David Davies, the executive director of the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety, wrote: "Howard was a tireless campaigner and cycling champion. His legacy includes a study that compared the benefits of travelling on two wheels with the dangers. Its conclusions, including that the health benefits of cycling far outweigh any dangers from mingling with other traffic, are still quoted in cycling debates today. Howard was also prepared to go against orthodox thinking when, as he saw it, the facts did not fit. He opposed the popular idea that it was safer for cyclists to be segregated from motor traffic because this usually involved merging with traffic at junctions, where the risk was greatest. This

position put him at odds with many fellow cycle campaigners. Howard was a friend and mentor to me from my earliest days in road safety. He was a clever and knowledgeable man, who lived out his Quaker and environmental principles. He also had a dry sense of humour, quietly delivered. Howard coped with his illness without complaint. He will be missed by many.”

Four members of the 1963 Corner Group and two wives were able to join Esther and family to celebrate Howard's life.

---

**EDWIN ROGER LLOYD COLE (1961)** died on 1 May 2020, aged 72.

He read Engineering. His wife, Christine, writes:

Educated at Maldon Grammar School and Lowestoft Grammar School, Roger was awarded an exhibition to study Mechanical Sciences at Downing. He achieved distinction in the Mechanical Sciences Tripos and was awarded the Archibald Denny prize in the Theory of Structures as well as the Rex Moir Prize. As well as playing hockey for the College, he joined the Robert Hall Society as well as CICCUC. Thus he made long lasting friends both within Downing and the wider University. Studying for his PhD he worked on Roscoe's Simple Shear Apparatus.

In 1967 he began his career with Lancashire County Council. He designed bridges from the smallest foot bridges, crossing streams in the Lancashire countryside where he loved to walk, to road, river and motorway bridges. Later in his career he managed the maintenance of the entire County bridge-stock. Early in his career he researched the problems resulting from the construction of the early box-girder bridges. He represented Lancashire on the Bridges Working Group of the County Surveyors' Society and in 2004 received a certificate of merit for this work. In retirement he worked part time as a consultant for Atkins. He considered it a fitting conclusion to his professional career to work on the National Bridge Code in this capacity. Finally, retirement found him busy as a National Trust volunteer at Dyrham Park and leader of a very successful U3A History Group as well as a continuation of his various roles within his local Church. He leaves a wife, two sons, including **Timothy (1988)**, and five grandchildren.

---

**JEFFREY HOWARD DENTON (1962)** died in 2019, aged 70. He studied for a PhD in History. He was Professor of Medieval History at the University of Manchester. He authored various books including *Philip the Fair and Ecclesiastical Assemblies 1294–1295*, *English Royal Free Chapels 1100–1300* and *Orders and Hierarchies in Late Medieval and Renaissance Europe*.

**ALEXANDER GRANT FITZGERALD (1961)** died on 8 August 2019, aged 79. He took a PhD in Physics. He was Emeritus Harris Professor of Physics at Dundee University.

---

**PAUL EUGENE MARCUS JARRETT (1960)** died on 22 October 2019, aged 76. He read Natural Sciences. Dr Jarrett was born in 1943 in Blackburn, Lancashire, the only son of Doris and her husband, Maurice, a research chemist in the paint industry. He attended Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn then Downing College. He completed his training at St Thomas' Hospital. In 1977 he was appointed a consultant general surgeon with an interest in vascular surgery, a post he held until retirement in 2003. He was for some years the medical director at Kingston and two private hospital companies. He was also honorary consultant surgeon to the Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust and the New Victoria hospital, Kingston upon Thames.

In 1978, as a consultant general surgeon at Kingston Hospital, Dr Jarrett devised plans for the opening of one of the country's first day-surgery units, the largest in Europe. In 1988 he was founding chairman of the British Association of Day Surgery (Bads). For two decades Dr Jarrett was involved in the design and development of dozens of day units across the UK — each health trust now has one — and in ten other countries, as well as advising the Department of Health. As well as establishing Bads, he was a founding member of the International Association for Ambulatory Surgery. He also published and delivered 130 papers and was joint editor-in-chief of the international journal *Ambulatory Surgery*.

Beyond work he collected antiques, including medical and surgical instruments, but primarily clocks. On retirement he was able to pursue this interest, attending night classes on the repair and restoration of clocks and becoming a member of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers and its master in 2013. He was also elected as a freeman of the Company of Art Scholars. He is survived by his wife, Annie, his son, Michael, and three grandchildren.

---

**CHARLES KENNETH JOHNSTONE (1962)** died on 2 August 2018, aged 95. He read English. Prior to arriving at Downing he had entered the church. He was subsequently Assistant Professor of English at Glendon College, York University, Toronto.

---

**RICHARD GRAHAM NOTT (1969)** died on 7 August 2019, aged 68. He read Modern and Medieval Languages.

**COLIN FRANK NORTON (1962)** died on 27 July 2019, aged 76. He read English followed by Archaeology and Anthropology.

---

**DAVID REAH (1962)** died on 27 January 2019, aged 80. He studied for an LLB and a Diploma in International Law.

---

**EDMUND RALPH STOW (1968)** died on 23 September 2019, aged 70. He read Engineering. **Mike Smith (1965)** has submitted the following obituary. Material supplied by the Stow family, Clive Avery and Chris Darrall is gratefully acknowledged and is quoted from below.



When Ed was born on 23 February 1949, his father William Ralph Stow was a carriage painter and Foreman in the railway works at Swindon. By then it was part of British Railways, but it was established by the Great Western Railway. From Headlands Grammar School there Ed went to Cambridge. At Downing, music was perhaps as important to him as engineering, and he took a significant part in the work of the Chapel and the Music Society. I especially remember his wonderfully sensitive playing in the best performance I have ever heard of Grieg's poignant piano piece *To the Spring*, and the accompaniment to my own *The Quartette* for male voice quartet and harmonium. The latter was on the College instrument which Ed himself, as an undergraduate, restored and re-tuned – a portent of things to come.

Suitably, Ed's first appointment after graduation in 1971 was to a post at the Railway Technical Centre in Derby. One project he worked on, the Automatic Warning System (AWS), was particularly appropriate for Ed, the system having been originally introduced by the Great Western. More significantly, the project was vital both to the safety of passengers and to the working conditions of train crews. Clive Avery: 'Ed's knowledge of acoustics (and music!) was crucial to this development and the units are in use to this day. If you travel near the cab of a multiple-unit train, listen out for the regular "ping" as you pass a (green) signal. That's Ed.'

As a lifelong railway enthusiast, Ed initially enjoyed many aspects of his job. However, he had an overriding passion for organ and choral music and much of his spare time was spent on musical activities. Very soon after his arrival in Derby he was appointed Organist and Choirmaster at Queen's Hall Methodist Mission, a position he held for 21 years. He transformed the standard of music at the Church and arranged many ambitious performances and concerts. He also made important contributions to music at other Anglican churches nearby: Melbourne, Repton,



and especially Allestree and Sudbury. His involvement in organ (as opposed to harmonium) restoration began in 1975, when he masterminded a project to replace the unsatisfactory instrument at Queen's Hall. Chris Darrall reports of a similar enterprise at Belper: 'He was still working for BR at the time, so the work was done in the evenings (often 3 nights a week) and on Saturdays.... by volunteers.... under Ed's expert direction.... on many occasions he was there until 11.30 at night (although it must be admitted that this was often because he could not resist playing it!)'.

Ed left BR in 1994, when terms were generous due to the need to reduce numbers prior to privatisation. He then set up his own organ building and maintenance business and undertook numerous, often major, organ projects, again with the help of volunteers when required. On retirement in 2014 he moved to Stroud. He made long daily walks and even longer train trips. He also found an outlet for his musical energies: All Saints Church, Stroud. With his assistance, as at Derby long before, the church and the choir were able to put on more ambitious music than they would otherwise have attempted. Ed was also an accomplished composer and a skilled extemporiser benefiting all the churches he attended.

Ed's funeral at All Saints was attended by over 70 friends, family members and associates from all stages of his life, including a coachload from Derby. Ed had prescribed all the music, including two of his descants, and the choirs and organists so assembled produced a service which would have pleased even him, even if he might not have admitted it.

## 1970's

**GERALD DESLANDES (1970)** died on in December 2019, aged 67. He read History of Art. He was a gallery director and taught art history and visual studies ranging from the Renaissance to twentieth century British Art. He taught on tours of London and other places in the United Kingdom as well as Austria, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands.

---

**JOHN FREDERICK FITZ MILLER (1978)** died on 26 September 2018, aged 88. He studied for an LLB. Patrick Grieve, a colleague and partner of John for over 30 years, writes:

John was a son of a policemen in Lowestoft, he read law at London University and qualified as a solicitor. He was first employed by a firm in London specialising in parliamentary counsel work, drafting legislation. Returning to Suffolk he joined

Kersey Tempest and Latter, where he quickly became one of the senior partners. John was an impressive figure of confidence and authority, but a twinkle in his eye was never far off. After running Kersey Tempest and Latter effectively for some years he chose to leave and set up Margary & Miller in Felixstowe which was convenient for his beloved boat Calimari moored not far from his house and the office. His strength of character, decisiveness and judgement made Margary & Miller a very successful practice bringing prosperity not only to him and his partners, but to all of us who worked for him and who could keep up. He did not suffer fools either at work or elsewhere, one look was enough. As a solicitor John was formidable. A huge comfort and support to his clients, and a terror for the other side.

All of us who knew him were struck by his love of life which he lived to the full. His passion for sailing was matched by his love of shooting. He was never happier than when standing in the woods at Sutton Hoo or on the Adnams shoot at Raydon overlooking the marshes.

John was kind and generous. He did not come from a privileged background and his achievements were due solely to his determination, hard work and courage. When he was in a position to do so, he quietly helped other young people with their education and he was instrumental in setting up the Tranmer Trust which has as one of its main purposes helping young people in Suffolk with educational grants. John's great sorrow later in life was the loss of his beloved Janet. It was an unexpected and devastating blow. They had been together for 30 years.

## 1980's

**RUPERT WHEWELL (1989)** died on 27 May 2019, aged 49. He read English. **Jamie Arnell (1988)** gave the eulogy at Rupert's funeral. The following is an edited version:

Thinking back to the dreadful evening when I first learned of the accident which claimed Rupert's life and those of his seven companions, it seems at once as if it were yesterday and as if it were some long distant memory. The Rupert I know, though, loved four things above all:

- humour
- people, particularly children
- words and
- the outdoors, and especially the mountains

We all have our memories of his humour. He made us laugh, a lot... in between the boring bits. His love of people was more nuanced. He loved a

party. He loved to dance. He was loud, excitable in a gathering, fun to be around. He was a good, reliable friend. But I always felt that he was just a little disappointed by us adults. We made too many compromises for his liking. We were too preoccupied by things he felt were unimportant. He liked his humanity raw and he used to say that this is what he found so appealing about children. He loved their simpler, irreverent, spirited view of the world. I think it was how he wanted to see the world, how he wanted us to see it. And then there were the words. From a promising start, commended in the WH Smith Young Writer's Competition 1982 and on to Cambridge to read English, his life was full of words. He would carry phrases that tickled him like others carry grudges. He loved his pearls of wisdom.

And so to our final stop in our tour of Rupert's fabulous four: the outdoors and particularly the mountains. He had many years of golfing struggles with us, he crewed for us, ran marathons with us, rode etapes with us, climbed peaks with us, skied couloirs with us, often dragging us reluctantly into these adventures, But above all...the mountains. On his feet, on crampons, on skis, on bikes, with and without armaments, that boy *loved* an incline. I believe he loved them most because, when he was in the mountains with his family and friends, our preoccupations fell away and we were really there with him. He was getting us as he wanted us, unencumbered, out there with him in the beauty of it. He truly died doing what he loved.

We have lost a wonderful man. Although we cannot hear him anymore, there was, in his passions, a message he left to all of us. He thought we were all getting life wrong. For him, real life was seeing the ridiculous for what it is and seeing the sublime for what it is. Most of life is laughable. The mountains are sublime. Children are sublime. Words can be sublime. We all need to remember, even if his voice fades from our memories, that his priorities were different from most of ours and his treatise on life, written in his actions and passions and the way they have connected everyone here today, has profound lessons for us all. And his treatise ends with a glorious, agonising, oh-so-Rupert full stop.

## 1990's

**OBAFEMI ABIOYE AYANTUGA (1992)** died on 23 July 2015, aged 49. He took an MBB Chir. Born in Lagos, Nigeria he obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and Bio Chemistry from London University in 1986 and then went to Oxford University to take a PhD in Organic Chemistry. During his research at Oxford he developed a molecular cell and was awarded the Bishop Frazer prize for Excellence in research in Organic Chemistry. While at medical school in Cambridge he received the John and Margaret Henderson Memorial

Prize in Medicine. He worked as a senior house officer in a couple of UK hospitals before leaving for the USA to continue his career, beginning as an Internal Medicine Resident at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Dr. Ayantuga worked at the Kanabec hospital in Mora, Minnesota for a few years and at the time of his death, was working at the Fairview Southdale Hospital group, having been appointed Medical Director there in 2010. He had many years of experience in professional medical leadership and served on various committees ranging from patient care, pharmacy and therapeutics, medical group practice to hospital trauma care. He belonged to several professional affiliations such as the American College of Physicians, The society of Hospital Medicine, The American College of Physician Executives and the American Public Health Association. He was one of 47 made Senior Fellows in Hospital Medicine (SFHM) in 2014.

## 2010's

**DOMINIC JOSEPH SHEPHERD HAMLYN (2018)** died on 28 July 2019, aged 24. He read an MPhil in Management. The following has been provided by Peter (Dom's father), Geraldine (Dom's mother), Gabriel Hamlyn and Benedict (his brothers):



Dominic Joseph Shepherd Hamlyn, our beloved son and brother lived for only 24 years. During his life, Dominic loved, achieved and experienced what many would have been proud to in a whole lifetime. Born in London on the 16 October 1994, Dominic grew up to be a spectacular academic with interests stretching over a plethora of topics. He was a true polymath at heart. He was and would have continued to be, one of the world's great contributors. Falling victim to Sudden Athlete Death on the 28 July 2019, sadly that was never to be.

Leaving school with a bristling set of A levels from Kings Canterbury Dominic went on to receive first-class honours in a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences from University College London; a broad degree in which he majored in Astrophysics and Mathematics and minored in Philosophy and Politics, whilst taking Spanish as his foreign language. Two weeks before his death Dominic had received his master's degree from The Judge Business School. Tragically, this was to be his last academic triumph. Dominic's real legacy lies beyond the realms of academia. He was a unique person in life and his untimely death has been felt by all those he influenced, made feel loved and who loved him. Dominic's memory will extend far beyond his years.

Dominic was a keen sportsman participating enthusiastically whether it be cricket, golf, rugby and latterly rowing. Rugby however was his true passion. He was a first team school player throughout and an avid follower of London Wasps at weekends. Having run rings around both his brothers in garden touch rugby he went on to play for the first team at UCL winning the Varsity under floodlights at the Saracens' ground. He transferred this success to Cambridge where he helped his Downing side claim Cuppers glory for the first time in over 20 years (see photograph).

When he didn't have his head in a book or under a rugby trophy, Dominic was determined to help those in need. As a boy, Dominic helped Michael Watson raise money for the Brain and Spain Foundation. In 2014, Dominic completed the London Marathon and in 2017 he completed the 10,000-mile Mongol Rally road trip over six weeks in a £400 VW banger. Throughout his life, he raised over £50,000 to help those less fortunate than himself.

Dominic didn't fit between the lines, and his loyalty was greater than any opportunity. He was a hero to his brothers, his friends, and his parents. The tragedy is we will all miss him for the rest of our lives and he won't be here for any of it. Dominic cared deeply. He went the extra mile to ensure you smiled and loved and protected without hesitation. He always showed up and embraced his fears. He stood firm against adversity and had the courage to keep loving deeply in a world that sometimes failed to do so. But most importantly, Dominic always had your back. He stood up for what he believed to be right and ensured that although at times he may have been powerless to prevent injustice, there was never a time when he failed to protest.

Dying of a sudden cardiac arrest, at just 24, he numbers amongst the 12 young people who die of this each week in the UK. It is now the subject of his brothers' campaign.

[www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/63029982/sad-awareness-a-campaign-of-brothers](http://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/63029982/sad-awareness-a-campaign-of-brothers)



### 1749 Society

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).

## Editorial acknowledgements

**THIS PUBLICATION**, combining *The Association Newsletter*, *Dow@Cam*, *The College Record* and *Magenta News*, is created from contributions from students, past and present, Fellows and College staff. Zoe Barber (Fellow), Assistant Editor, collects contributions from current students and the Fellowship. Izzy Taylor, JCR Sports Officer, collects reports on sports clubs. From the College departments Sarah Pickard, Academic Registrar, with her colleagues, gives us the lists of academic and sports awards. Catherine Middleton, Director of Engagement & Development Operations has co-led the redesign. Susan Esden and Claire Varley from the Development Office have provided some of the feature articles, kept us in touch with the alumni database and edited *Magenta News*. An Editorial Committee of Richard Bowring (1965), Kate Panter (1981), Barrie Hunt (1966), Peter Thomson (1953), Norman Berger (1952), Martin Mays (1957) and Catherine Middleton advised on content. Peter Whittington (1962), Barrie Hunt (1966), Karen Storey (1982), Catherine Middleton and Zoe Barber have helped with proof reading. The College and the Association wish to acknowledge the significant assistance provided by Morven Knowles, YBM, Andy Harvey and all at H2 Associates.

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Serenydd Everden, Perry Hastings, Andrew Houston, Tim Rawle (from *A Classical Adventure: The Architectural History of Downing College Cambridge*).

The *Downing Magazine* is printed with vegetable based inks on paper containing material sourced from responsibly managed forests certified in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council®.

**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 CAMBRIDGE CB2 1DQ**

**T: + 44 (0)1223 334850 E: [development@dow.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@dow.cam.ac.uk)**

**[www.dow.cam.ac.uk/alumni-development](http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/alumni-development)**