

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2006

# NEWSLETTER

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



**Happy  
families:  
Cambridge  
childcare**

**Find out: What's new | Who's who | Who's won what | What's on | Where it's at**

# SNAP SHOT

**Through the roof** At the Cambridge University Botanic Garden, this Mexican sotol plant (*Dasyllirion serratifolium*) enjoyed our heatwave so much that its flower spike outgrew the greenhouse. The plant, which is a desert succulent closely related to yuccas, grew to ten feet tall. The sotol has been at Cambridge for about 40 years and last flowered in 2001. You can still see the spike, although only from the outside as the glasshouse is closed for restoration.  
[www.botanic.cam.ac.uk](http://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk)



**1960s icon** Work to refurbish the glass roof of the Faculty of History's Seeley Library on the Sidgwick Site has been taking place this summer. The infamous Grade II-listed glass-fronted building is a classic piece of 1960s architecture which was ahead of its time in its extensive use of glass. The work has included cleaning and resealing the library roof, replacing the sloping glass roofs over the bookstacks and reconfiguring the main entrance.



**Tucking in** The diet of the meerkat often includes unwieldy and dangerous prey, such as this scorpion. Cambridge scientists have found that wild meerkats have a complex system of teaching their pups how to manage their challenging menu by gradually introducing dead, injured and then live prey. The older meerkats were found to kill or disable the prey before providing it to the pups. Although learning *per se* wouldn't be surprising, it had been debated whether wild mammals taught their young.



**Two abreast** The Coton Footpath has long been a popular way for pedestrians and cyclists to get into town from the west. Now the section between Wilberforce Road and the West Cambridge Site is being doubled in width to cater for the greater numbers of pedestrians and cyclists that will be generated by future developments there. The next project at the Site is a building for the Physics of Medicine; work will start in the New Year alongside JJ Thomson Avenue, opposite the North Residences.



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Dr Sandra Leaton Gray of Homerton College with her sons, Conrad, 8, and Angus, 5, who attend the University's Holiday Playscheme

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## NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is published for the staff of the University of Cambridge and is produced by the Office of Communications.

The Editor would like to thank the many readers who recently wrote in with positive comments about the new look of the Newsletter. Please continue to send in ideas for the content and other ways we can improve the publication. Email: [university.newsletter@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:university.newsletter@admin.cam.ac.uk) or tel: (3)32300. Suggestions for articles for the December/January edition should reach the Editor by 20 October.

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### Newsletter online

The Newsletter can be read online at [www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/newsletter/](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/newsletter/)

## New services to help academics find funding

THE RESEARCH Services Division (RSD), the University's 'one stop shop' offering support on research administration and funding, has introduced a raft of new services with the aim of boosting funding for research across the University. It is all part of a new look for RSD, resulting from an extensive consultation with academics and administrators who use their services.

The first wave of new initiatives are being launched this autumn, in the lead up to the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). One is a 'funding opportunities' service which helps academics who want to identify new sources of funding, or want help with co-ordinating large or inter-disciplinary bids.

Secondly, RSD are offering practical help with application budgeting using fEC (full economic

costing) and pFACT (project financial appraisal and costing tool); RSD calls this new set of services the pFACTory. Those putting together applications are invited to get in touch with RSD before they submit their application. The pFACTory provides individual coaching by appointment, as well as in clinics. Tel: (3)33543 or see

[www.rsd.cam.ac.uk](http://www.rsd.cam.ac.uk)

● Academics wanting research funding are welcome to attend the **Funder Roadshow**, open to all, where they will be able to talk to a wide range of funders. 22 November, University Centre, 10am-3pm.

● You can find more about the new RSD research services in the first edition of a new magazine about Cambridge research, *Research Horizons*, launched this month. For a copy email [jo.ryan@rsd.cam.ac.uk](mailto:jo.ryan@rsd.cam.ac.uk)

## New volunteers tackle workplace harassment

STAFF WANTING help with the delicate issues of bullying and harassment at work have an excellent new resource. This month the University launches the first phase of its Dignity@Work policy with a network of workplace contacts and departmental advisors.

*Dignity@Work* was unveiled back in May as the University's mission to promote an environment in which all members of the University could feel respected. Since then, much effort has gone into recruiting and training volunteers from all levels of staff to act as the first port of call for anyone suffering from, or accused of, bullying or harassment. Eleven contacts around the University are now on hand from October to chat

informally and give guidance.

Jenny Woodhouse, Equality and Diversity Policy Officer, explains: "Many of us in Personnel, Counselling, Occupational Health and Welfare realised that there were very few places members of staff could go for support if they felt they were being harassed. This meant that often situations dragged on until they became intolerable," she said. The Equality and Diversity team are now recruiting volunteers to train as conciliators to help with the informal resolution of problems. Contact Jenny Woodhouse, tel: 32344 or [jw10001@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:jw10001@admin.cam.ac.uk)  
→ [www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/personnel/policy/dignity/](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/personnel/policy/dignity/)

## ALL NEW...

### Degree

A new postgraduate degree has been proposed by the University Council and General Board. The degree would take one year and be called a Master of Research (MRes). It would provide prospective PhD candidates with a preparatory course more closely connected to their proposed PhD topics and, most importantly, offer more training in research skills than MPhils. If introduced, it would also help to give a more reliable indication of a student's ability to complete a PhD. The MRes would not replace the current MPhil degree, but it is expected that applications for the MPhil would decrease.

### Wireless



The University Library (UL) is now offering free wireless internet access to any staff member or student with a Raven password. Wireless is currently available in the UL's West Room on the first floor, and coverage will be extended shortly to the Rare Books on first floor and Manuscripts and the Official Publications Reading Rooms on the third. Wireless access to the library's own catalogues from the open stack areas is also planned. This service is via the Computing Service 'Lapwing' wireless hotspot service and the UL is the first department outside the University Computing Service to offer it. 'Lapwing' connections are designed to be very simple to set up, requiring only a 'Raven' password and a wireless-enabled laptop.

→ For more information on Lapwing see [lapwing.csx.cam.ac.uk](http://lapwing.csx.cam.ac.uk)

### Sculpture



A striking five-piece sculpture, 'Span', by Phillip King now graces a lawn at the Sidgwick Site thanks to the new Royal Academy of Arts Sculpture Loan Project of which Cambridge is the first beneficiary. When artists are elected to join the Royal Academy they are asked to contribute a 'diploma work' as an example of their highest achievement. 'Span' is from Phillip King's groundbreaking 1968 exhibition at the Whitechapel Art Gallery. It fully reflects his pioneering role as a leader of the so-called '60s 'New Generation' of sculptors who rebelled against the figurative tradition in British sculpture, represented by Henry Moore, for whom King worked as assistant in the late 50s.

## Women lob Harvard and Yale in new tennis cup

ANDY MURRAY may be the toast of the UK tennis establishment, but a Cambridge/Oxford team have already beaten him to securing a British victory at Wimbledon. The weekend of 12-13 August saw the first battle on UK soil for the Seabright Cup, the women's version of the biennial Prentice Cup which has been contested between Cambridge/Oxford and Harvard/Yale since 1921.

It was the first time a full women's tour had run alongside the men's, building up to the climactic showdown at the All England Lawn Tennis Club.

The host country alternates each time the cups are contested and the touring team spend six weeks playing various local clubs. Traditionally, that has meant that the touring side also comes away with the honours because they have time to gel as a side. Neither Cambridge nor Oxford has won the cup on their home turf since 1970. But the Cambridge/Oxford women's team, led by Cambridge law undergraduate Amani Khalifa, bucked the trend this time with an



Women's tennis captain **Amani Khalifa** joined with Oxford to beat Harvard and Yale in the first ever Seabright Cup.

8-4 victory at Wimbledon. The men's team again lost out to the Americans, who won the Prentice Cup for the third time in a row, 15-6.

The event is organised by alumni whose enthusiasm has helped ensure the Prentice Cup is now the oldest international, inter-collegiate amateur tennis competition in the world.

## New festival to launch in 2008

IF YOU THOUGHT hands-on, high-energy family activities were for science only (at the Cambridge Science Festival), new developments are in store.

The University has been awarded funding from the Higher Education Innovation Fund to run a pilot Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Festival in October 2008.

It will build on educational arts activities already being run by many of the University's museums and galleries, such as the Big Draw every October. "We will be asking University departments, staff and students to think about ways they would like to communicate to the general public," said Nicola Buckley, co-ordinator of the new festival.

"We will work with departments to create all kinds of performances, exhibitions and workshops, from historical re-enactments to theatre, music and poetry, as well as philosophical and political debates."

If you have ideas for ways in which you could showcase the work of your department or College, and make it accessible to the general public, please contact Nicola Buckley, Festivals and Outreach Co-ordinator, [njb1010@cam.ac.uk](mailto:njb1010@cam.ac.uk). The festival team are also able to support public engagement activities before 2008 with marketing and other assistance.

## North West Cambridge moves forward

REALISATION OF the University's development proposals for North West Cambridge (NWC) moved a step closer this summer with the adoption of the Cambridge Local Plan. The proposals include more than 1,000 new homes for University staff use, student accommodation and major academic and commercial research facilities.

The Local Plan, adopted by the City Council on 20 July, allocates 80 hectares of land for the development. An Area Action Plan is now being prepared by the local Councils for the whole NWC site,



including land in South Cambridgeshire.

A six-week consultation on the development, *Issues and Options*, started on 25 September. The public can now visit three exhibitions on the proposals:

- 6 October 2 – 8.30pm, The Pavilion, Girton Recreation Ground, Girton.
- 10 October 2 – 8.30pm, The Pavilion, University Sports Ground, Wilberforce Road.
- 23 October 2 – 8.30pm, The Auditorium, Fitzwilliam College, Storey's Way.



The arts, humanities and social sciences are to get their own festival.

→ Your comments and contributions are always welcome. Please send them to the Editor at [university.newsletter@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:university.newsletter@admin.cam.ac.uk)  
The deadline for the next issue is 20 October.

## More rooms to rent needed in Cambridge

EVERY YEAR thousands of people seek help from the University of Cambridge Accommodation Service in finding somewhere to live. They range from individual postgraduates looking for rooms, to researchers with families from overseas, needing advice on housing and schools.

The Service is headed by Nicky Blanning. "There is invariably an acute shortage of reasonably-priced, centrally-located accommodation – especially properties suitable for families and couples on modest incomes," she says. "There is also a shortage of accommodation available for short periods. Some visitors to the University need rooms for under a month and cannot afford bed and breakfast prices," she said.

In April, the Accommodation Service moved to newly-renovated premises in Tennis Court Road. The move brought together several offices: the Accommodation Service (formerly split into the Lodgings Syndicate and the letting of around



Nicky Blanning: "There is an acute shortage of centrally-located accommodation."

360 university-owned properties), and the Newcomers and Visiting Scholars (formerly the Society for Visiting Scholars).

Much of the Service's work in matching those seeking accommodation with properties is done online via a database introduced in 2004. In 2004-05, the Service was in touch with more than 19,000 clients.

If you have a room to rent, contact the Accommodation Service on tel: (3)38099 or at [www-accommodation.admin.cam.ac.uk](http://www-accommodation.admin.cam.ac.uk).

## University contributes billions

A PIONEERING REPORT investigating the socio-economic impact of the University of Cambridge has found that the institution contributes more than £50 billion and over 150,000 jobs to the UK economy.

The report also found that the University is value for money. For every £1 the government spends on Cambridge undergraduates, it is paid back at least £25 in tax in later years.

*The Impact of the University of Cambridge on the UK Economy and Society*, produced by independent research firm Library House, also highlighted Cambridge's world ranking. Significantly, it noted that Cambridge achieves its world-leading position alongside Harvard, Stanford,

Berkeley and MIT but with substantially fewer resources.

Other key findings are that:

- With a total of 81, Cambridge-associated researchers have received more Nobel Prizes than any other university or any single country, other than the UK and the US
- The University directly employs 11,700 people and in total supports 77,000 jobs in the East of England
- The Cambridge region is host to Europe's largest concentration of hi-tech companies
- The number of research papers published by the University has grown rapidly over the past 15 years to a total of 5,900 papers in 2004.

Find the full report at [libraryhouse.net/www/publications/index.php](http://libraryhouse.net/www/publications/index.php)

## ALL NEW...

### Popularity



*Naked Scientists* the interactive BBC science radio show produced at the University of Cambridge recently achieved 2 million podcast downloads in a year. This makes it one of the world's most downloaded science programmes. Dr Chris Smith, a medical doctor and lecturer at the University, started the programme in 1999. Each hour-long show sees the presenters encouraging the audience to experiment in their kitchens, and hosts guest scientists who answer questions posed by the public.

[www.thenakedscientists.com](http://www.thenakedscientists.com)

### Visit



Secretary of State for Education, Alan Johnson MP, visited the University on September 6 to meet the Vice-Chancellor and other key representatives of the University to discuss current issues such as widening access, the RAE, and to meet sixth form pupils from underrepresented groups. Johnson, MP for Hull West and Hessle, was appointed Secretary of State for Education and Skills in May 2006. He left school at 15 with no O levels, stacked shelves in a supermarket, then became a postman. He worked his way up the Union of Communication Workers, becoming an MP in 1997. He is a strong supporter of improved vocational training, arguing for the pursuit of excellence and rigour. He has pushed for further initiatives to increase the numbers of university students from poorer backgrounds. He had previously served as Minister of State for Higher Education when top-up fees went through Parliament.

### Warning

"Our identity has never been more at risk from thieves and hackers and via so many means," said Mr Delon Dotson, CEO of Palm Tree Technology, keynote speaker at a recent symposium run by the Judge Business School. Talking at the Global Business Symposium, held at Peterhouse in July, Dotson said that today's internet users are far more sophisticated than they were, and that current solutions for protecting our identity "address an internet from yesteryear".

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

For many years scientists have been puzzling about whether or not Europeans and Asians descend from the same small group of African people. The DNA evidence was there but not the archaeological proof. Now a new Cambridge analysis of prehistoric stone tools has provided the missing link the world has been waiting for

## The missing link

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'missing link' which could prove that modern-day Europeans and Asians stemmed from the same small group of people in Africa has been found by a Cambridge academic.

Professor Paul Mellars has spotted strong similarities between stone tools found in both Africa and India which give concrete backing to the idea that the people of Europe and Asia sprang from a tiny community of migrants from Africa. These early ancestors, perhaps as few as a single boatload of people, would have crossed from East Africa to Arabia between 50,000 and 60,000 years ago.

This rewrites our understanding of how people eventually spread into what is now Asia and Europe. While DNA researchers have speculated for some time that the populations of Europe and Asia had a single, mutual source – known as the 'Out of Africa' theory – no supporting archaeological evidence has been found until now. Indeed, many archaeologists had believed there were at least two separate dispersals,

one into Asia and the other towards Europe, which contradicted the DNA evidence.

### Tools tell tale...

Professor Mellars's paper, published in the journal *Science* in August, is the sequel to a previous essay in which he discussed why *homo sapiens* began to leave Africa about 50,000 to 60,000 years ago. In it, he argued that technological advances, perhaps spurred by climate change, led to a sudden boom in the population which consequently began to spread.

This new paper examines what happened next. Prehistorians already know that *homo sapiens* left Africa about 50,000 to 60,000 years before the present day. Eventually, some of these people reached Europe, bringing with them stone tools like the ones found in India and Sri Lanka. Others headed east, through Arabia, Asia and the Malay Peninsula, travelling along what prehistorians call the 'coastal express route' due to the comparatively rapid progress



**"If populations are constantly moving, you would expect some devolution and for the tools to get simpler"**

made by those who used it.

Finds at the end of that express route, in Australia, consist of much simpler tools than those found in Europe. For this reason, archaeologists have traditionally presumed there were at least two separate dispersals from Africa – one to Asia and Australia and one up to Europe. According to this model, two different groups of people harbouring different levels of technology would have dispersed at roughly the same time, one heading towards Europe and the other travelling east. The problem was that the DNA analysis contradicts this. The similarities in the genetic make-up of Eurasian peoples are so strong that it is difficult to see how they could have come from two or more separate sources.

Now Mellars's realisation that the more complex tools and geometric designs found in India and Sri Lanka match tools found in Africa provides the hard, archaeological evidence that people in Asia had the same sophistication as those going up to Europe: for the first time, his paper



Above: Professor Mellars's discovery of the similarities between these two sets of tools – one from Africa and one from India – provides the hard archaeological proof that peoples from these two places come from the same origins in eastern Africa, as did peoples from Europe. This matches DNA evidence which suggests the same.

Map: 50,000 to 60,000 years ago a tiny community of migrants moved from eastern Africa to India, up to Europe (not shown on map) and down the coastal express route to Australia. The new findings dispel the theory that two different groups of people with different levels of technology moved from Africa, one going to Europe and one to the east.

lends credence to the theory of one dispersal.

“It fills out the picture,” Professor Mellars said. “Before, the idea of one dispersal was speculation. Now the argument is no longer one just based on the DNA of these people, but on their technology and behaviour as well. It is the first time there has been archaeological evidence found and in that sense this is very much the missing link we needed.”

The finds, at Jwalapuram in south-east India and Batadomba-lena in Sri Lanka, show striking resemblances to those from eastern and southern Africa. They include small stone tools that may have been arrow or spearheads and carefully shaped and perforated beads manufactured from fragments of ostrich eggshell.

#### ...of our common origin

Professor Mellars contends that these similarities are too strong to be a coincidence. It is more likely that the objects were made by different generations of the same migrating people. And this suggests that man could have crossed from Africa via only one dispersal route, into Arabia. The migration would have split at a later stage, perhaps in eastern Arabia or Iran. Archaeologists will need more evidence before they know exactly where and when.

Professor Mellars also has an explanation for the simpler nature of the tools found in Australia: he believes this can be explained by patterns that show technology often devolves when humans are continually on the move. Similar patterns have been found in the decreasing genetic complexity of modern humans as they moved away from Africa. “Up until now, it was felt that the tools found in Australia look so different from those found in Europe that they must have been carried by a separate dispersal,” he said. “But what we are finding in Australia could actually be a simplified version of what you get in Africa and India – and Europe. If populations are constantly moving, you would expect some devolution and for the tools to get simpler.”

## OTHER RECENT FINDINGS

### Scientists call to save reefs



Twenty of the world's leading marine scientists, including a team from our Department of Zoology, have called for tighter regulations on the live reef fish trade, in letters to the journal *Science*. The Cambridge researchers monitored the fast growing trade from Hong Kong (the hub of the trade) which extended a distance of 100km from the coast each year in the 1970s, to over 400km per year in the 1990s. The live reef fish trade can have devastating effects on coral reefs due to its destructive harvesting methods.

### How to last as a football manager



An intriguing study by academics from Cambridge and Singapore has used statistical and mathematical models to analyse the length of sport managers' tenures. The study suggested that the reputation of a football manager is less related to his talent, effort or decision making and more to do with luck and the ratio of wins and losses, which create 'thresholds of reputation'.

### Heart disease ages your arteries by up to 40 years

People suffering from the advanced stages of heart

disease have arteries that are biologically up to 40 years older than their real age, according to research led by Professor Martin Bennett, British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiovascular Sciences, Department of Medicine. The research found that the more advanced the disease, the older the artery cells. Researchers believe that the major causes of heart disease – high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, smoking, lack of exercise and poor diet – are responsible for the chemical damage that causes the premature ageing.

### Cold bees like warm flowers

Pollinating bees may be seeking more than just food as a reward when they choose which flower to visit. A Cambridge study, in collaboration with Queen Mary's, London, showed that bees prefer to land on warmer flowers, particularly when the bees are cold, and that they can learn to use colour to predict floral temperature before landing. Scientists hope this study will shed light on why specific floral structures have evolved.

### Cooler nanotubes

A new method of producing carbon nanotubes, one of the basic building blocks of nanotechnology, has been developed which allows them to be grown at lower temperatures than previously thought possible, and hence allows direct integration into electronic structures. The nanotubes, with a width of one millionth of a millimetre, have excellent mechanical and electronic properties. Production previously involved growing them at 500°C, which damaged the insulator used to make electronic devices. Researchers have now succeeded in growing the nanotubes at 350°C.

Did you know that the University offers some of the best childcare among UK Universities for children up to 14? Here is a guide to what you can expect

# Bringing on the next generation

FOR THOSE IN the University who need childcare there is mixed news: the good news is that Cambridge provides some of the best, and most reasonably priced, childcare among British universities. However, parents need to be aware that, as in most universities, there are not enough nursery places to meet the demand. But with two in three children getting places, Cambridge is better than most. New parents should also be prepared, as everywhere, to spend up to a quarter of their (fulltime) salary on childcare.

UK universities are generally better at providing childcare than other employers, but Cambridge childcare is particularly good. Starting with cost, a full time nursery place here is £558 per month. This compares well with the national average of £624, according to a recent survey by the *Times Higher Education Supplement*. Parents at Middlesex University pay £825 and those at Hertfordshire £605 (for under-tuos), while at UEA it costs £704 for a place for their over-threes. The cheapest university nursery in the country is Brighton University, although its lowest fee of



"Staff do feel very sorely when they find out how long the waiting list is": Sue Davis, the new Manager of Childcare Services.

£347.60 is means tested.

The University runs several schemes to help staff parents financially. They can choose to subscribe to the salary sacrifice scheme which will give them significant savings on the £558. The University has also recently introduced a Childcare Voucher scheme which allows parents to help pay for any other registered or approved childcare in Cambridge.

A handful of UK universities offer no childcare, not even an arrangement with a local nursery, a route some universities take. "Cambridge does provide a quality service with high calibre staff," says Sue Davis, the new Manager of Childcare Services who came into

**"IT GIVES ME SUCH PEACE OF MIND TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE HAPPY WHILE I'M AT WORK"**

Dr Sandra Leaton Gray, a Director of Studies at Homerton College, has two sons aged 8 and 5 and uses the Holiday Playscheme.

"I have been really impressed with our local Playscheme, which takes place at the Fawcett School, Trumpington. My children really miss it at the weekends.

"They take part in lots of different activities, from circus skills, art and craft and baking, through to swimming, cycling and visiting museums on the bus. This week the staff arranged

for an ice cream van to visit and the children could all choose a free ice cream.

"My two younger children have minor disabilities, and the helpers and play leaders go to endless amounts of trouble to make sure they are settled. It gives me such peace of mind to know that they are safe and happy while I'm at work. I'm pleased it has got a little cheaper as well – the new payroll childcare voucher scheme means that some of my payments come out of my salary before tax."



post this April from a job in a national family support charity, and who is charged with advising the Staff Childcare Committee on the development of the University's childcare strategy. "Another benefit for Cambridge parents is that the nurseries operate all year long, including most holidays, again something that many Universities' nurseries don't do," says Davis.

## School holidays

Once their children begin school, the body of Cambridge parents are among just a few around the country who have their holidays provided for – only a handful of other universities offer schemes for older children. The University has teamed up with Anglia Ruskin University to provide holiday care, called the Universities' Holiday Playscheme, for children rising 5 to 14. The Playscheme, which celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2005, is co-ordinated by Allison Stewart. "It is a great service and it's no surprise that OFSTED recently awarded them the highest rating possible for a play scheme," says Felicity Cooke, Head of Equality and Diversity who has overall management responsibility for Childcare Services. "The Playscheme is a bit like a swan gliding over the water. It all looks smooth on the surface but underneath people are working really hard. They do a fabulous job".

With good opening hours, 8.15am to 5.45pm, parents have every chance of keeping up their working hours when their children are off school. The Playschemes do not, however, open in the Christmas holiday and on bank holidays; half term is the busiest period. A particularly innovative feature of the scheme is that children who attend can, once they are 14, attend



**"The Playscheme is a bit like a swan gliding over the water... underneath people are working really hard. They do a fabulous job"**



as volunteers, while over 16s can even train as play workers. “This benefits both the children and the teenagers,” says Allison Stewart.

### Shortage of places

The drawback of Cambridge childcare, as in most workplace schemes, is that there are simply not enough nursery places, neither in the two University-run nurseries nor in two of the three College-run nurseries; provision for older children on the Playschemes, however, is much better – places are not oversubscribed.

The nurseries provide for roughly two-thirds of children of staff needing places in the University, with a total of around 150 full time equivalent places (places for student parents are ring fenced so they can usually be catered for). “Staff do feel very sorely when they find out how long the waiting list is, and that they may not get a place,” said Davis.

“The criteria for getting a place are complex, ranging from whether you are a lone parent, to whether both parents work at the University, personal circumstance, and whether your child has a sibling.” It can therefore look as though a child is being leap-frogged. “When there is a tie, length of service is the deciding factor,” said Sue.

### A third nursery?

This situation may improve. The Childcare Office is in very early stage talks with EMBS and the local authorities about the possibility of a third nursery being included in the proposed new development of the North West Cambridge site. However it will be several years before work would start on developing this site, assuming it gets the green light.

### Finding out

One of our greatest childcare assets is

of very high quality, but somewhat understated. On the pages of the childcare website ([www.cam.ac.uk/cambuniv/childcare](http://www.cam.ac.uk/cambuniv/childcare)) is a huge amount of very well researched, well written information, compiled by Childcare Information Adviser Cassie Marks. This tells you anything a parent could possibly need to know about the practical side of childcare and is called *Childcare Information for University Staff* (available to download from the website or copies can be posted out). It offers a huge amount of financial advice, explaining all the complexities of vouchers, maternity pay, income support. There is also a popular email list to keep parents up to date with the latest information and events – parents can also use this list to buy and sell children’s items and exchange details. A great resource for busy parents.

### University nurseries

**Edwinstowe Road**  
(off Chaucer Road)  
Age: 3 months–5 years  
Typical cost: £588.74 a month (full time)  
Opening hours: 8am–6pm, all year round  
Eligibility: University staff  
**West Cambridge nursery**  
(Charles Babbage Road)  
As above, but also provides for students.  
For information about any aspect of the above nurseries see the webpage [www.cam.ac.uk/cambuniv/childcare](http://www.cam.ac.uk/cambuniv/childcare).

### College nurseries

**Queens’ College**  
(in Fitzpatrick Hall on campus)  
Places: 12  
Opening hours: 8.30am–2.30pm  
Contact: Sandy Bullett, tel: (3)35623 in opening hours  
**Gonville and Caius**  
(on Sidgwick Avenue)  
Places: 25  
Opening hours: 8am–5pm  
Contact: Elizabeth Wiggam, tel: (7)40688  
**Wolfson Court**  
(Clarkson Road)  
(jointly run for St John’s, Churchill, Trinity and Girton by Kids Unlimited)  
Places: 76  
Opening hours: 7.30am–6pm  
Contact: 461553

### Holiday Playschemes

Contact: Childcare Office, 25 Trumpington St, CB2 1QA, tel: (3) 39905, [playscheme@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:playscheme@admin.cam.ac.uk)

### It’s worth knowing that...

- [www.cam.ac.uk/cambuniv/childcare](http://www.cam.ac.uk/cambuniv/childcare) is a mine of information
- To join the staff parent email list or to be posted a copy of *Childcare Information for University Staff* contact [childcare@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:childcare@admin.cam.ac.uk)
- Addenbrookes-based University staff should contact Karen Houghton on tel: 596364 [orkaren.houghton@addenbrookes.nhs.org](mailto:orkaren.houghton@addenbrookes.nhs.org)
- The University’s Childcare Voucher scheme for staff members is operated by Busy Bees. See [www.busybees.com](http://www.busybees.com) or tel: 08000 430 860.
- Staff working for places such as the ADC and Cambridge Assessment are eligible for the University nurseries, but not staff employed by CUP, colleges, visiting academics and more. See website for the full list.
- Playschemes are open to members of the public three weeks before it opens; busiest times on the Playscheme are half term.
- Parents interested in the Playscheme can join a mailing list. Contact details above.

New Classics lecturer, Dr Caroline Vout, explains how Latin took its hold on her

# Why I love Classics

DR CAROLINE VOUT, a new lecturer in the Faculty of Classics this term, is fascinated by the Roman Empire. Her research into the literary and visual material of the period asks new questions about classical antiquity and its modern relevance. She did her first degree in Classics at Newnham College, took an MA in Classical and Byzantine Art at the Courtauld Institute, then returned to Cambridge for her PhD. Her first book, *Power and Eroticism in Imperial Rome* (CUP) is published at the end of the year.

## How did you fall in love with Classics?

It was Latin that did it. When I was at school aged 12, we had to choose between Latin or cookery. Latin was taught by a wonderful teacher called Anna Conlong and was attractive because it was different and difficult. It came at a price – I still can't cook.

## What inspired you to apply to Cambridge?

When I was at primary school, my parents, neither of whom went to university, used to share the school run with the parents of an older girl. When I heard she'd gone to Oxford, I somehow knew it was impressive and something clicked in my mind. I preferred Cambridge because of the breadth and flexibility of the course.

## Your work looks at similarities between Roman society and our own. So who would you put in a Roman Big Brother House?

I'd have to choose Theodora, wife of the Emperor Justinian. She is said to have been the daughter of a bear trainer and a prostitute before becoming one of the most powerful patrons of her time. With her, I'd put Seneca, imperial adviser and philosopher, a man who was both serious and suicidal. They should make an exciting combination.

## Why study Classics today? Isn't it rather irrelevant?

A degree in Classics gives you the tools to examine the art, architecture, literature and philosophy of peoples who lived over 2,000 years ago. Our literature,



**“Roman sculpture normally attributes beards to intellectuals or soldiers, who were too busy thinking or fighting to shave”**

political structures, sculpture and cityscapes would look very different without the influence of Greece and Rome. We are in constant dialogue with our past.

As a field, Classics is expanding as archaeologists are constantly finding new evidence for us to study.

Existing evidence is also being reassessed as we draw on approaches by disciplines such as Film Theory and Gender Studies.

**Your publications include *The Myth of the Toga: Understanding the History of Roman Dress* and *What's in a Beard? Rethinking Hadrian's Hellenism*. So what did Romans wear under their leather skirts?**

Republican rhetoric suggested that if you aspired to be a gritty, old-fashioned Roman like Cato, then you wore nothing at all. As for beards, Roman sculpture normally attributes these to intellectuals or soldiers, who were too busy thinking or fighting to shave.

**What is the worst aspect of teaching?**

Teaching is never a drain unless you do too much of the same and it becomes routine.

**How can we persuade more children, especially those at state schools, to take Classics at university?**

The Faculty is highly dynamic in this area. In 1966, the Faculties of Classics and Education set about establishing the Cambridge School Classics Project to make the classical world and the learning of the classical languages more accessible. The Faculty now offers a four-year Classics course for students who start Latin and Greek at university. With Dr Richard Miles, I am the Faculty's Schools Liaison Officer and hope to increase student numbers on both the three- and four-year courses.

**What comes next in your research?**

I am working on a book on Rome as a 'city of seven hills', and why other cities from Constantinople to Durham, where I was born, have all claimed to have seven. Almost every guide book to Rome from the Renaissance onwards advises the visitor to climb one of the seven hills and look out over the city. I want to know why!

# PEOPLE

## PEOPLE COMING

### Egarr takes over at Academy of Ancient Music

ONE OF THE University's orchestras in residence has a new musical director. The prestigious Academy of Ancient Music (AAM) has appointed Richard Egarr to succeed Christopher Hogwood.

The orchestra, which performs on period instruments, was founded by Hogwood in 1973. Under his leadership the AAM gained world wide recognition, performing across six continents, while retaining strong links with Cambridge.

Hogwood has honorary fellowships from Pembroke and Jesus



Richard Egarr takes over the AAM from Christopher Hogwood, right, who founded the orchestra and took it to great heights as one of the UK's top orchestras.

Colleges and was made Honorary Professor of Music. The orchestra performs regularly in venues across Cambridge, including frequent collaborations with the choir of King's College and is one of the orchestras in residence at the University. Egarr was previously the orchestra's Associate Director. Christopher Lawrence, a Cambridge alumnus who oversees the development of the orchestra said: 'Richard quickly showed that he had all the qualities we were looking for after Hogwood retires: inspiring vision coupled with musical virtuosity



and a keenness to lead the organisation into the next stage of its development.'

The 2006-7 season opens on 30 October at West Road concert hall. → See [www.aam.co.uk](http://www.aam.co.uk)

### New Chief Executive for Addenbrooke's

A PAEDIATRICIAN with extensive health service and commercial experience in England and Australia has been appointed chief executive of Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which includes Addenbrooke's Hospital.

Dr Gareth Goodier joins Addenbrooke's at a time of notable achievements, improved performance, and development. After qualifying as



Gareth Goodier's wide experience includes a spell as a flying doctor in the Australian outback.

a doctor and working in the north of England, Goodier spent many years in Australia as chief executive of a number of major hospitals and health systems. He returned to England in 2003 to be Chief Executive at the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust; since 2004 he has been heading up the North West London Strategic Health Authority.

### New Dean and Bursar come to Trinity

THE REVEREND Michael Banner, currently Professor of Public Policy in the Life Sciences, University of Edinburgh, has been elected as Trinity's new Dean of Chapel.

Professor Banner, 44, obtained his MA and DPhil at Oxford. He was Bampton Research Fellow at St Peter's College, Oxford, then Fellow and Dean of Peterhouse, Cambridge (1988-94). In 1994 he was Professor of Moral and Social Theology at King's College, London. During his last three years at King's, he acted as assistant curate to the parishes of West Wratting and Weston Colville, in the Diocese of Ely. He was a member and chair of government committees relating to bioethics and environmental issues. He is currently a member of the Human Tissue Authority. Among his publications is



The Reverend Michael Banner, Trinity's new Dean of Chapel, contributes to debates on current issues such as bioethics and the environment.

*Christian Ethics and Contemporary Moral Problems* (CUP 1999).

● Mr Rory Landman has been appointed as Trinity's next Senior Bursar. Mr Landman, 45, is an alumnus of Downing College. He has had a wide-ranging and highly successful career in finance and investment. He worked at Baring Asset Management where he became a Senior Director. He was also a partner in Thames River Capital. He is also currently associate non-executive director of the East Herts NHS Trust. He has strong Cambridge connections: his four sons are (or were) all choristers at King's College. Mr Landman joins Trinity this term as Assistant Bursar and has a four-month overlap period with Dr Jeremy Fairbrother, becoming Senior Bursar in January.

## IN BRIEF

**Judith Jesky**, Head of the Disability Resource Centre at the University of Cambridge has been elected to the DTI's Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee. The committee advises the government on access to transport for disabled people. "We are currently looking, for example, at how disabled people were caught up in the terrorist alerts at the airports with the restrictions on hand luggage, and advising on improvements," said Jesky.

**Sir Ian McKellen**, English graduate of St Catharine's College and distinguished actor and gay rights activist, has just been made a Lieutenant Colonel in the Georgia National Guard. "I was in Atlanta doing press for *The Da Vinci Code*", he told the *New York Daily News*, "and they wanted to honour me... So the 'don't ask, don't tell' rule [excluding 'out' gay people from the US military] obviously didn't apply to me." Local activists are suggesting that the governor of this conservative state might not have realised that McKellen was gay.

## Obituary

**John Gleave, BM, BCh, MA, FRCS**  
It is with deep sadness that St Edmund's College announces the death of Mr John Gleave, Emeritus Fellow who was Praelector for 20 years (1982-2002). Gleave was a Consultant Neuro-Surgeon to Addenbrooke's Hospital before his retirement from the National Health Service in 1990. He died peacefully on 6 August aged 81.

# PRIZES AWARDS & HONOURS

## Professor Stephen Hawking awarded Royal Society's Copley medal

PROFESSOR STEPHEN Hawking has been presented with the world's oldest award for scientific achievement, and the most prestigious award from the Royal Society, the Copley medal. It goes to him for his outstanding contribution to theoretical physics and theoretical cosmology.

To mark his respect for Professor Hawking's work in cosmology, British-born astronaut Piers Sellers carried the medal with him on the recent Space Shuttle mission to the International Space Station. He said: "Stephen Hawking is a definitive hero to all of us involved in exploring the cosmos. He serves as a continuous inspiration to every thinking person. It was an honour for the crew of the STS-121 mission to fly his medal into space. This is particularly appropriate as Stephen has dedicated his life to thinking about the larger universe."

First awarded by the Royal Society in 1731, the Copley Medal pre-dates the Nobel Prize by 170 years. "This is a very distinguished medal, awarded to Darwin, Einstein and Crick," said Professor Hawking. "I am honoured to be in their company." A more recent Cambridge recipient was Alexander Robertus, Baron Todd.

## British Academy elects four Cambridge researchers as Fellows

FOUR CAMBRIDGE researchers have been elected as Fellows of the British Academy (the national academy of the humanities and social sciences), and an award made to a professor of divinity. They were presented by its president Baroness Onora O'Neill, then Principal of Newnham College. Fellowships were given to:

**Professor Helen Cooper** of the Faculty of English who is recognised



**"Hawking is a hero to all of us involved in exploring the cosmos. It was an honour for the crew of the STS-121 mission to fly his medal into space."**

as a leading scholar of Chaucer. Her writings are notable not only for the range and accuracy of her scholarship, but also for the shrewdness and lucidity of her writing.

**Professor David Feldman** of the Faculty of Law who is widely regarded as the leading academic writer in the field of domestic civil liberties and human rights and, more generally, as a leading figure within public law.

**Professor Martin Millet** of the Faculty of Classics who is an archaeologist with an international reputation for his work on the Roman Empire. He has also made significant contributions to later prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon archaeology.

**Professor Robin Osborne** of the Faculty of Classics who is recognised for his work on the history, archaeology and art of ▶p14

## OTHER AWARDS

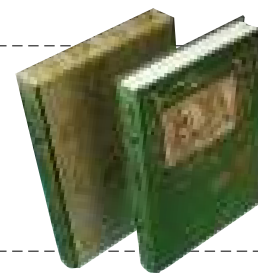
**Medical innovation: Dr Helen Lee** of the Department of Haematology has been awarded the 2006 European Women of Achievement Award, in the business category. Previous winners include Lady Limerick, Chairman of the British Red Cross and Paula Radcliffe, the distance runner. Lee and her team are making a dramatic impact on health problems in the developing world by making inexpensive diagnostic tests. Their award-winning FirstBurst test for Chlamydia is already in use. The test was also adapted to detect trachoma, as featured in the summer 2006 edition of *Newsletter*.

**Biology: Dr Andrea Brand**, neurobiologist, has been given the Rosalind Franklin Award from the Royal Society for groundbreaking contributions to the fields of developmental biology, gene regulation and neurobiology. Named after the scientist who discovered the first clear experimental evidence for the helical structure of DNA, the award seeks an undertaking by the winner to help raise the profile of women in science. Dr Brand is Director of Research in Developmental Neurobiology at the Wellcome Trust/Cancer Research UK Gurdon Institute and the Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience at the University of Cambridge. Her research has provided insights into the biology of stem cells, with the aim of directing the cells to regenerate after injury.

**Psychology: Michael Lamb**, Professor of Psychology in the Social Sciences, has been appointed as a member of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Between 1987 and 2004 he was Senior Research Scientist and Section Chief within the Intramural Research Program at the US National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. His papers on the victims of child abuse and on interviewing the children involved have been widely published.

### Win a copy of *The Wind in the Willows*

*Newsletter* is offering a prize of a special copy of the award-winning *The Wind in the Willows*, printed by CUP for the Folio Society, to the first three readers to send the correct answer to the question: **What was Toad's passion before he became keen on motor cars?** Answers by 10 November to the editor at [university.newsletter@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:university.newsletter@admin.cam.ac.uk)



**Psychology: Dr Danielle Turner**, until recently a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Psychiatry at Cambridge, has won the 2005 Award for Outstanding Research Contributions to Psychology presented by the British Psychological Society. In her PhD, which she took at Cambridge, Dr Turner showed that by administering stimulant drugs, including modafinil and methylphenidate (Ritalin), it is possible to enhance cognitive performance with minimal side-effects. She was recently Fellow at the Centre for Cognitive Liberty and Ethics in California and this term returns here to be Cambridge Neuroscience Coordinator.

**Chemistry: Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas** has been awarded the Sir George Gabriel Stokes Gold Medal by the Royal Society of Chemistry for pioneering and innovative electron-based nanochemical analyses. Sir John was Head of the Department of Physical Chemistry before he went to the Royal Institution as its Director in 1986. On his retirement as Master of Peterhouse in 2002, he was appointed Honorary Professor of Solid State Chemistry in the Department of Materials Science.

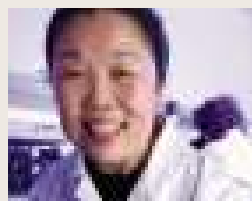
**Classics: Professor Paul Cartledge** of the Classics Faculty has been appointed Hellenic Parliament Global Distinguished Professor in Hellenic Studies at New York University. He is the inaugural holder of this new post which is funded by the Greek Parliament.

**Literature and history: Peter Ackroyd, Matthew Parris and Jonathan Spence**

Clare College has awarded honorary fellowships to three scholarly writers, all Clare alumni. **Peter Ackroyd**, novelist, biographer and poet, is acclaimed for his inventive writing which blends past and present, fact and fiction. Many of his novels, which include *The Great Fire of London* and *The Clerkenwell Tales*, revolve around the city of London.

**Matthew Parris**, columnist, radio and television broadcaster and former Conservative MP, is well known for his colourful political writing and opinion pieces, chiefly in *The Times*. His books include accounts of his travels and life in politics.

**Jonathan Spence** is Sterling Professor of History at Yale University and a specialist in Chinese history. He is recognised as one of the foremost scholars of China from the 16th century to the



Helen Lee has been selected as a European Woman of Achievement



Matthew Parris, pictured here at the summer party of the Office of Communications, has received an honorary fellowship from Clare College



Helen Cooper is Fellow of the British Academy

present, and his book *The Search for Modern China* has become one of the standard texts.

**Printing: Cambridge University Press wins Grand Prix award**

A copy of *The Wind in the Willows* printed by CUP has been described as 'an example of near-flawless production', 'a work of art', and 'too beautiful to ignore', winning a perfect score from judges in a recent printing industry competition, the Grand Prix award run by *Printing World*. CUP won the 2006 award which goes to the best piece of print of any description produced in the UK over the previous 12 months. CUP was also winner of the Book Production category for the third time in four years.

**Real Estate Finance: Werner Baumker and Peter Scott**

The first Loizou and Anastasiadis Memorial Awards have been awarded in their inaugural year to two students on the MPhil in Real Estate Finance, Werner Baumker (highest overall mark) and Peter Scott (highest overall dissertation mark). Pavlos Loizou of CB Richard Ellis, who graduated from the MPhil course in 2004, established the awards in memory of his grandparents.

**Teaching resource: the Junior Cambridge University Language Programme (CULP)** from the Language Centre has won the 2006 European Award for Languages.

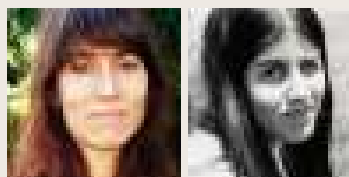
The pilot project aims to bridge the gap in 14-plus language provision and, in particular, to help pupils less motivated to study languages at Key Stage 4. The project combines face-to-face teaching with online learning. In the pilot studies several hundred students from half a dozen Cambridgeshire schools were enrolled on Junior CULP to learn Spanish, French, Italian and German. Located on Downing Place, the Centre provides language learning for all members of the University. In addition, the John Trim Centre offers teaching in more than 150 languages – even !xu, a language of the Kalahari Desert.

## "HOW A MAN CALLED BRIAN INSPIRED ME TO BECOME A MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST" ANDREA BRAND, RECIPIENT OF THE ROSALIND FRANKLIN AWARD

"Although my family is English, I was born and raised in New York City. When I was at the United Nations International School I had a wonderful British biology teacher called Brian Kahn.

"Aside from his brilliant teaching, Mr Kahn, or Brian as we all knew him, was memorable for the fact that he dressed in exactly the same style every day: black turtle-neck pullover, jeans and brown suede shoes called 'wallabies'.

"I remember how he set some of the original pioneering experiments in molecular biology, by Francis Crick and others, as puzzles for the class (for example, how was the genetic code



Andrea Brand, recipient of the Rosalind Franklin Award... and at the age of 15

discovered to be encoded in triplets?). Many of the exams that he set had no right or wrong answer, they required you to think and suggest hypotheses rather than memorise facts.

"Inspired by Brian and by reading *The Double Helix*, which gives an account of how the structure of DNA was solved, I decided to

become a molecular biologist at the age of 15. I was particularly impressed by the role that Rosalind Franklin's work on the crystal structure of DNA played in the discovery, and I have enjoyed reading further accounts of her life and work since.

"After school, I studied Biochemistry at Oxford, then moved to Cambridge for my PhD, then returned to Harvard for post doctoral research. I have headed my own group at the Wellcome Trust/Cancer Research UK Gurdon Institute since 1993. I am also a member of the Cambridge Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience."

# PRIZES AWARDS & HONOURS

Greece in the archaic and classical periods. His research also covers political and social history as well as various aspects of cultural history.

In addition, the British Academy awarded **Professor Graham Stanton** of the Faculty of Divinity the Burkitt Medal for Biblical Studies. He has been recognised for his work on the New Testament, particularly the Gospels, their origins, historical importance and theology.

## Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences

TWO CAMBRIDGE academics have been made Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences. The Academy promotes advances in medical science and campaigns to ensure these are translated into healthcare benefits. Its Fellows are the UK's leading medical scientists across all sectors.

**Professor Peter Lipton** is the Hans Rausing Professor and Head of the Department of the History and

Philosophy of Science at Cambridge University, and Fellow of King's College. His main philosophical interests lie in the theory of knowledge and the philosophy of science, especially questions concerning explanation and inference.

**Dr Peter Kirkpatrick** is a Consultant working for the NHS and an Honorary Lecturer in Neurosurgery at the University of Cambridge. The main focus of his research is head injury, for which he has developed innovative monitoring systems. He is widely recognised as the leading neurovascular surgeon in the UK.

## Three Cambridge academics elected as Fellows of Royal Academy of Engineering

THE ROYAL ACADEMY of Engineering has elected three scientists from the University and the Cambridge-MIT Institute as Fellows. **Professor William Milne** of the



Peter Lipton has been made a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences



Edward Crawley has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering

Department of Engineering is distinguished for individual and collaborative research that helps to keep the UK at the forefront of carbon and silicon-based electronics. He has also played a major part in the development of the undergraduate curriculum at Cambridge.

**Professor Ian White**, Head of the School of Technology, Department of Engineering, has been recognised for his many contributions to optoelectronics and optical communications including development of multi-mode fibre data communications. He has also made outstanding contributions to technologies for low-cost wireless infrastructure.

**Professor Edward Crawley** of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Cambridge-MIT Institute, has been elected as an International Fellow. The fellowship is bestowed for outstanding contributions to the dynamics of structures, and for international efforts in engineering education.

# ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertising on this page is open to University staff. The cost is £15 for a single insertion or £75 for six insertions (six for the price of five). The deadline for the December/January issue is November 3. Maximum word count is 70 words. Send your copy to the editor at [university.newsletter@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:university.newsletter@admin.cam.ac.uk) or call 01223 332300.

## NURSERY

### → Coton Pre-School places

Situated in the grounds of Coton Village School, 2½ miles west of Cambridge and conveniently located for the West Cambridge Site, Coton Pre-School provides a caring and stimulating environment that makes learning enjoyable and interesting. Places are currently available for children over 2½ years, with Early Years Funding available for those 3+. For an introductory pack or to arrange a visit contact: [Jo Raines, 01954 212606](mailto:Jo.Raines@cam.ac.uk) or [jr10024@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jr10024@cam.ac.uk)

## ACCOMMODATION TO LET

### → North Yorkshire Moors

Cottage in Low Mill, Farnedale, with sitting room, dining room, play room, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and garden with lovely views. Sleeps 7. All mod cons. Fabulous walks in all directions. Near Rievaulx, Castle

Howard, Runswick Bay. 2006 rate: £340/week.

Contact: [Horace or Miranda Barlow, 01223 366618/333813 or hbb10@cam.ac.uk](mailto:Horace or Miranda Barlow, 01223 366618/333813 or hbb10@cam.ac.uk)

### → North Yorks Coast

Comfortable, well-equipped Georgian house to let in Robin Hoods Bay. Garden, sea views, central heating and private parking. Sleeps up to 7.

Contact: [Val Everton, 01223 515970](mailto:Val Everton, 01223 515970).

### → Italy, Rome

Luxury apartment, 5th floor, vast terrace, air conditioning, near British School, available for weekly rentals. £300 per week or £1,000 per month. Pictures and fuller description available on request.

Contact: [car37@cam.ac.uk](mailto:car37@cam.ac.uk)

### → France, Nice

Quiet two-room apartment in centre of Nice. Sleeps 2 in d/b + 2 on sofabed. 10 minutes from airport and short walk from lovely beach. Frequent flights from Stansted.

Contact: [Robin Spence on tel: 01223 312254 or rspence@carltd.com](mailto:Robin Spence on tel: 01223 312254 or rspence@carltd.com)

### → France, Pyrenees

Two traditional stone houses, 850m, wonderful views (Chateau de Montsegur). Ideal for walking and relaxing. From £200 per week. One and a half hours from Carcassonne. Contact: [0033561013046](mailto:0033561013046) for photos and information

### → France, Chamonix

New high quality apartment situated in the French village of Les Houches in the Chamonix valley. Good for all types of activity holidays summer and winter, situated at the bottom of a ski lift.

[www.apartmentkandahar.com](http://www.apartmentkandahar.com)  
Contact: [semc2@medschl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:semc2@medschl.cam.ac.uk)

### → Spain, Murcia region (Costa Calida)

Superb, 2-bed penthouse flat with magnificent views. Sleeps 6. Secure grounds, private indoor & outdoor pools, spa, gym, sauna, children's play area, garage. On beach. Near

golf courses inc La Manga. 30 mins from Murcia airport. Rent 240-530 Euros per week.

Contact: [01480 455391](tel:01480455391) or email: [beehouseuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:beehouseuk@yahoo.co.uk)

### → Spain, Galicia

Explore this historic and beautiful region of Spain bordering Portugal. Selfcatering accommodation sleeps up to 7 in owner's traditional style cottage. Use of 10m pool. Visit ancient towns and meet tradition, history and art on every corner. Three golf courses within 45 minutes. Contact: [paulballard77@hotmail.com](mailto:paulballard77@hotmail.com) or [www.galiciadventures.co.uk](http://www.galiciadventures.co.uk). Tel: 0034 647233474

## FOR SALE

### → Violin and viola

Late 19th century French violin labelled 'H. Derazey a Mirecourt', excellent condition with German 'Penzel' bow and shaped case £3,925. Also modern handmade viola made

by Feng for Phelps. Length of back 15¾"/40cm, mint condition with German 'Paesold' bow and shaped case £1,485. Contact [John Bellm](mailto:John Bellm) Tel: 01223 276076.

The University of Cambridge accepts no responsibility for the advertisements or their content.

## ONLINE TRADING

You can also buy and sell items online on Cambridge's own e-bay, on the University website. You can trade pretty much anything – from bicycles to beard trimmers – and even pick up items for free (a toy monkey that looks like George Bush and a map of Germany were recently on offer). Try [www.cam.ac.uk/cambuniv/annevng.html](http://www.cam.ac.uk/cambuniv/annevng.html)

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

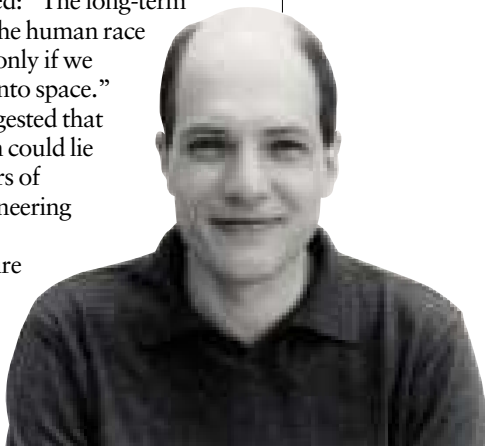
**"In a world that is in chaos politically, socially and environmentally, how can the human race sustain another 100 years?"**

*Posed by Professor Stephen Hawking*

Stephen Hawking recently posed this as an open question on the website 'Yahoo Answers'. It caused an internet storm with 25,000 people logging on to give their answers. They ranged from the advice that we should all just learn to get along and that technology would save us; many invoked the powers of God, as well as love and peace.

Professor Hawking gave the long-

awaited reply to his own question a month later, in the form of a video clip: "I don't know the answer. That is why I asked the question, to get people to think about it." He continued: "The long-term survival of the human race will be safe only if we spread out into space." He also suggested that one solution could lie in the powers of genetic engineering in changing human nature to make us "wise and less aggressive".



**Question for next month**  
**Is being overly drawn to literature a sign of melancholy?**  
*Posed by Alain de Botton, writer and philosopher*

De Botton, recently interviewed in the *Observer*, said: "There's a category of melancholic adolescents who are overly drawn to literature: they become journalists, academics, publishers. My greatest hope for my son is that he doesn't feel the need for poetry, for philosophy, that I felt – that he's more at home in the world without the mediation of books."

→ **Do you agree?** Answers to the Editor by 20 October at [university.newsletter@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:university.newsletter@admin.cam.ac.uk)

## INITIATIVE OF THE SUMMER

OVER THE SUMMER more than 350 high-achieving teenagers from state schools around the country took part in the annual residential Summer Schools, run by the Cambridge Admissions Office. The courses are designed to raise aspirations and dispel myths about higher education.

The University has run Summer Schools to encourage applications from state school pupils and other under-represented groups for at least ten years. Individual Colleges have also worked with schools for almost as long. St John's College, for example, runs the Eagle Project, a programme of activities with schools in Lambeth, south London.

Lesley Gannon was appointed in 2004 as Head of Widening Participation and Schools and Colleges Liaison, heading a team of five people.

Participants in the Summer Schools come from schools and colleges all over the country and range in age from year 10 pupils to mature students of 50 plus. They include students from the state-maintained sector, those living in neighbourhoods with low participation in higher education, and students from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Funding comes from the



**Sixth formers have a go at building bridges at the Department of Engineering**

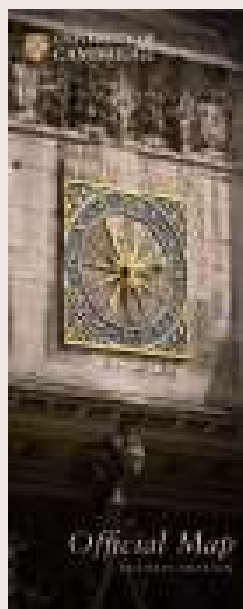
University, the Sutton Trust, the publicly-funded Aimhigher programme, the European Social Fund, the Higher Education Funding Council for England and individual Colleges. The Sutton Trust was founded in 1997 by Sir Peter Lampl, an entrepreneur and Oxford University graduate.

Since 2000, the total number of applications to Cambridge has risen steadily from around 11,000 to more than 14,000 each year. In the same period the proportion of maintained-sector applications and places going to maintained-sector students has also risen. Ms Gannon said: "For many young people, having the self-confidence to believe that they can achieve at the highest level is the biggest hurdle."

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE MONTH

### Get around town

A new version of the University Map has been published by Cambridge University Press (CUP). The definitive guide to the geography of the university, the new edition offers an up-to-date representation of hundreds of University, College and University-related locations. It covers an area extending from High Cross and the West Cambridge Site to the University Press and Homerton College. Detailed maps also cover Maddingley/Girton, Addenbrooke's and departmental sites across the city. The price is £1.65 although Colleges, departments, and University offices can get a 40% discount from the CUP Bookshop. Tel: (3)33333, fax: (3)32954 or [bookshop@cambridge.org](mailto:bookshop@cambridge.org). The online version of the map ([www.cam.ac.uk/map](http://www.cam.ac.uk/map)) has also been revised and will be regularly updated.



### Get around in ancient Greek

A new dictionary of ancient Greek is currently being compiled by a team of three lexicographers and other staff in the Faculty of Classics, and promises to offer the most radical reappraisal of ancient Greek for more than 100 years. The only existing dictionary of ancient Greek has not been changed since the 19th century. The *Cambridge New Greek Lexicon* promises to be 'radically new' by comparing word meanings across a huge electronic database of classical texts. It is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and is planned to go to press by 2010.

→ You can find full listings of University events open to the public in the *What's On* brochure. Also at [www.cam.ac.uk/whatson/](http://www.cam.ac.uk/whatson/)

## WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

THE NEWLY DESIGNED website of the Whipple Museum of the History of Science is unique. Users can have interactive fun cutting up a cadaver and moving body parts around. It's not as gory as it sounds as the website uses images of Louis Auzoux's papier-mâché and plaster anatomical model from 1848. Online visitors can also examine 250-year old microscope slides and compare how a mouse hair looks under

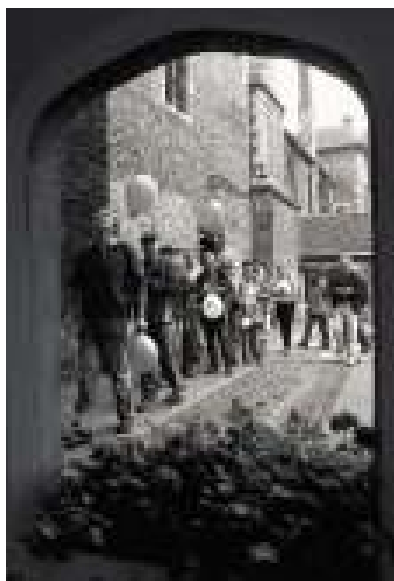
early and modern microscopes. Funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Designation Challenge Fund, it is a valuable tool for teachers and pupils.  
→ [www.hps.cam.ac.uk/whipple](http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/whipple)



## CONTRIBUTION OF THE MONTH

OVER 1,600 walkers helped raise over £30,000 for charity at this year's Bridge The Gap event, the annual ramble through some of Cambridge's most spectacular Colleges.

Bridge The Gap, now in its fifth year, is a sponsored Sunday stroll with a difference, organised by *Cambridge Evening News* and regularly raising tens of thousands of pounds for good causes while also giving people an opportunity to see inside some of the University's most beautiful Colleges. The money raised this year will be divided between three charities: Press Relief, The Arthur Rank Hospice and the Papworth Trust.



## TREND OF THE MONTH

NETWORKING HAS never been so easy, particularly for those who want to connect with people sharing a similar education to themselves. Facebook.com, a website originally designed by a Harvard undergraduate to trade jokes with friends, has caught on to become the seventh most trafficked website in the US. And the trend is now sweeping across UK universities, proving popular at Cambridge. Much like MySpace, the youth socialising website, users upload a personal profile with the option of revealing their love life, with categories 'single', 'it's complicated',

and 'in an open relationship'.

Unlike MySpace, Facebook's selling point is its exclusivity. If you don't have a University of Cambridge email, you can't get into the Facebook for Cambridge. This has led some to suggest that Facebook is merely a digital version of the old boy network. Others complain it takes up too much of students' time – a view unlikely to be dismissed with such irreverent listings as the 'I Check My Facebook on Work-Only Library Computers And There's Nothing You Can Do To Stop Me' group.

## WHAT'S ON: AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS

### Horizon seminar: Neuroscience and society

**12 October, Kaetsu Centre, New Hall**  
Horizon seminars give a first look at new developments in the most exciting areas of science and technology at Cambridge. [www.rsd.cam.ac.uk/events/horizon/](http://www.rsd.cam.ac.uk/events/horizon/). Fees are £150 – £350 although several academic guest places are available to University staff, especially those involved in neuroscience. Contact: [jo.ryan@rsd.cam.ac.uk](mailto:jo.ryan@rsd.cam.ac.uk) or tel: (7)65404.

### Family day: Apple Day at the Botanic Garden

**Sunday 22 October 2006**  
**10am – 4.00pm**

This hugely popular festival, now in its 10th year, promising to be bigger and better than ever. It includes apple tastings, games and activities, identification and cultivation advice plus Professor John Parker's popular lecture which traces the fruit's journey across the Russian steppes to Britain. Cost £5, children £2, under 5s free. Tel: (3)36365 to book.

→ [www.botanic.cam.ac.uk](http://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk).

### Festival: The Cambridge Music Festival, Mozart and maths

**5 - 25 November, many venues**

The three yearly festival focuses this year on the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth and an intriguing programme exploring the link between music and mathematics.

→ For a full diary of the dozens of events see [www.cammusic.co.uk](http://www.cammusic.co.uk). Box office: 01223 350544

### Lecture: On William Shockley, the hated inventor of the transistor

**14 November 2006, 5.30pm, Whipple Museum**

Based on his forthcoming biography of Shockley, historian Joel Shurkin will give an unflinching account of one of the most significant and hated scientists of the 20th century.

### Lecture: Are we more intelligent than previous generations?

**15 December, 2-4.30pm, Winstanley Lecture Theatre, Trinity College**

To mark the launch of the Psychometrics Centre at Cambridge Assessment, leading intelligence researcher Professor James R. Flynn will present a seminar on the 'Flynn effect', and the year-on-year rise of IQ test scores.

[www.thepsychometricscentre.co.uk](http://www.thepsychometricscentre.co.uk)

