

NEWSLETTER

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2008



The first Festival of Ideas

 UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE
800 YEARS
1209 ~ 2009



**Collegiate
Cambridge primer**

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as art**

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SNAPSHOT

A banner day Olympic swimmer Mark Foster launched the Bridge the Gap walk using a Cambridge University flag on 14 September. The event attracted more than 2,000 walkers who raised funds for the Arthur Rank Charity Hospice, Teenage Cancer Trust Appeal and Cambridge Evening News' Press Relief charities. The 4.5-mile walk included 10 Cambridge Colleges. Community members were also invited inside Colleges on 13 September for the first Open Cambridge day.



PHILIP MANNOTT

Looking ahead Professor Janet Todd enjoyed a warm welcome from the Fellows of Lucy Cavendish College when she was installed as the seventh President on 3 September. "There's something quite wonderful about this College – a self-selected group of women from many disciplines," she said. "It's a rich environment for discussion and encounters, a fantastic opportunity to make something different, distinctive and intellectually exciting."



PHILIP MANNOTT

It all adds up Forty GCSE students from deprived areas in inner-city and Greater London took part in a one-week intensive course in mathematics at Cambridge in August. The residential course is part of a year-long programme which includes two more residential sessions and e-tutoring. The \$1.2 million Fast Forward Maths programme, funded by the Goldman Sachs Foundation, targets groups who are under-represented in higher education.



PHILIP MANNOTT

The wedding riddle The marriage of Sir Winston Churchill and Clementine Hozier produced five children, lasted more than 50 years and only ended with Sir Winston's death in January 1965. Now, 100 years after their wedding, the Churchill Archives Centre at Churchill College has launched a fresh appeal for information about missing wedding reception photos. Although a photographer was present, the photographs have all disappeared. → www.chu.cam.ac.uk/archives



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Conversations – exchanges of ideas – will be an important part of the upcoming Festival of Ideas. Photo: Alex Buxton

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NEWSLETTER

The *Newsletter* is published for the staff of the University of Cambridge and is produced by the Office of External Affairs and Communications. Please send in ideas for the content and other ways we can improve the publication. Tel: (3)32300 newsletter@admin.cam.ac.uk Suggestions for articles for the Dec/Jan edition should reach the Editor by 14 October. Editor: Susan Dalzell Designer: Richard Reeve Design Printers: Cambridge Printing

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www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/newsletter/



Your comments and contributions are always welcome. Please send them to the Editor at newsletter@admin.cam.ac.uk. The deadline for the next issue is 14 October.

Growing interest in Botanic Garden



Gardeners' World host Tony Buckland visited the University's Botanic Garden in September.

SUMMER MAY have been a wash-out, but there has been plenty blossoming at the University's Botanic Garden.

BBC TV crews were in attendance at the beginning of September to film Gardeners' World's new host Toby Buckland.

Buckland, who replaced show stalwart Monty Don following his stroke, is a former Woodland Section Supervisor at the Botanic Garden. He came as a trainee before taking over the Woodland Section. For his first show in charge of Gardeners' World, he returned to his former haunt to reminisce about his time there.

"I had a brilliant time here," he said. "I made really good friends with the people I worked with and found out an awful lot about plants and how to grow them. What more could anyone want in a job?"

But that's not all; work is nearing completion on the new Brookside Gate at the corner of Bateman Street and Trumpington Road – which will become the principal public entrance for the Garden.

Designed by local architects Saunders Boston, the new entrance will open up the Garden by revealing views into the heart of its stunning landscape. A new shop and wooden ticket kiosk were also commissioned as well as a new path alongside the newly-turfed lawn.

Meanwhile, the Experimental Section of the Garden have been working with two conservation organisations on research and reintroduction programmes.

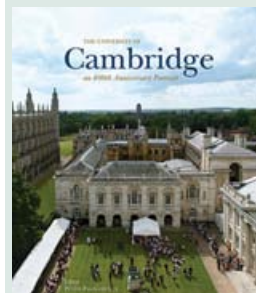
A thistle (*Cirsium tuberosum*) usually found on calcareous grassland and ploughed to near extinction, has been propagated for reintroduction at the National Trust's Wimpole Estate. Work has also been undertaken on the Fen Orchid *Liparis loeslii* with the plant conservation charity, Plantlife. The tiny orchid is in decline through most of Europe. The Garden hopes to grow orchids from seed to boost wild populations.

→ www.botanic.cam.ac.uk/

→ www.bbc.co.uk/gardenersworld

ALL NEW...

800th book launched



A new book and a final call for 2009 Fund applications are on the agenda for the 800th celebrations this autumn. *The University of Cambridge: An 800th Anniversary Portrait*, was launched on 26 September during Alumni Weekend. Published as the official volume to accompany the 800th Anniversary celebrations, this hardback edition traces the University's growth and development over the past eight centuries. The book will go on general sale in early November. Departments, Colleges and University groups wishing to help celebrate the 800th Anniversary have one last chance to apply for funding. The final deadline for the 2009 Fund is 22 October.

→ www.cam.ac.uk/800

True chemistry

The Department of Chemical Engineering and the Institute of Biotechnology merged to form a single Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology on 1 August. The move builds upon the strengths of both departments and increases cross-disciplinary research to address emerging global challenges. The merger took place after several years of close collaboration and discussion between the Department and the Institute and is expected to promote new research directions.

→ www.ceb.cam.ac.uk/

Inspect your gadgets



The University Library has assembled a collection of gadgets, toolbars and other plug-ins that can operate alongside the Newton catalogue and electronic resources available to members of the University. These include search plug-ins for iGoogle and Opensearch compatible browsers, such as Firefox and Internet Explorer, and a fully featured toolbar for Internet Explorer 7 and Firefox which allows you to conduct complex searches away from the catalogue interface.

→ http://ul-newton.lib.cam.ac.uk/help/web_tools.htm

No f ash in the pan

It's been a busy year for chefs at Sidney Sussex College since winning the Cambridge Colleges' Chefs Competition last October. Head Chef Stephen Mather went on to win gold at the national competition in December and the junior chefs won gold at the Food Show at the NEC in Birmingham. This year's competition will see a record number of entries. The final takes place at Christ's College on 30 October.

Building a better rower



HOWARD GUEST

THE DRAMA OF THE seven-month build-up to the 2007 Boat Race is the subject of a newly-published book by Cambridge academic Mark de Rond of Judge Business School.

De Rond spent the entire period embedded with Cambridge University Boat Club (CUBC) from the first gathering for 'ergo' tests to select the initial squad in September through to the race itself.

A keen rower himself, he aimed to make an ethnographical study of the world of the students who spend seven months combining their studies with a gruelling programme of training and selection. The goal is always to pick the fastest boat possible to race Oxford on the Tideway in the spring.

His book offers real insight into what motivates and frustrates these highly competitive athletes who

are in direct competition with each other but must produce completely harmonious and efficient movement in the boat.

"It's an experimental book, and one written for a general audience," De Rond says. "One of my objectives was to do justice to the visceral and highly emotional context of both Cambridge and Oxford rowing and ethnography – or the sort of stuff that often gets lost in academic writing."

The book has been well-received already, with former Oxford coach Dan Topolski writing in the *Guardian*: "De Rond succeeds in conjuring up the lives of athletes in extremis, under constant pressure to perform – and study."

→ The Last Amateurs – To Hell and Back with the Cambridge Boat Race Crew (Icon Books, 2008, £17.99) is out now.

Ethnologist Mark de Rond spent seven months shadowing CUBC rowers.

RSD reorganises its services

FOLLOWING a reorganisation of services in Research Services Division (RSD), each research grant is now supported by the same team throughout its lifecycle.

"By providing services for individual research projects from cradle to grave, we can provide more efficient and personal interactions with academics, departments and external organisations alike," says Edna Murphy, Deputy Director of RSD.

The research grant lifecycle progresses from application stage to acceptance of the award, activation and administration of expenditure, and final closure. RSD staff help with applying for and securing funding, administering the grant, and offering advice and assistance to researchers, research administrators and sponsors.

The new teams are: a Life Sciences Team supporting the School of Biological Sciences and the School of Clinical Medicine; a Physical Sciences and Technology Team supporting the School of Physical Sciences and the School of Technology; and an Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Team supporting the School of Arts and Humanities and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

RSD will provide researchers with the opportunity to meet a variety of research sponsors when it hosts its annual Research Funding Roadshow on 12 November from 10am to 3pm in the University Centre. Attendees will learn more about how funding schemes work, current funding opportunities and 'top tips' for applying for them, by meeting sponsor representatives in an informal and open setting.

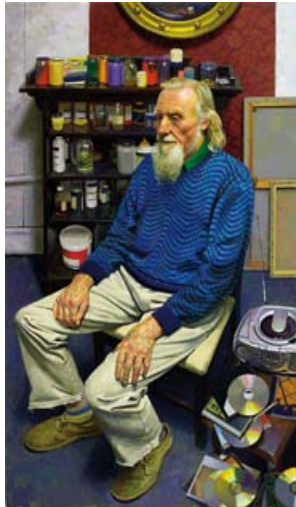
→ For details, email rsd.enquiries@rsd.cam.ac.uk

Ordinary people, extraordinary portraits

LIFEBOATMEN, nannies, vagrants, farmers and butchers are all perfectly at home in Girton College.

That is, on the walls of Girton College.

A note-taker and a hairdresser joined the College's acclaimed People's Portraits exhibition in September. The new portraits, both by members of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, bring the collection up to a total of 40 paintings. The Chief Executive of the Royal



John McWilliam was painted by Benjamin Sullivan in 2007.

Academy of Arts, Dr Charles Saumarez Smith, unveiled the paintings during a celebratory reception on 27 September.

On long-term loan to the College

since September 2002, People's Portraits began life as a millennium exhibition mounted by the Royal Society of Portrait Painters. The idea was to represent ordinary people from all walks of life, offering a picture of the United Kingdom as it moved from the 20th century into the 21st.

The new paintings are *Girish Sethna*, *Note-Taker*, by Alastair Adams, and *The Hairdresser*, by Saied Dai. They can be viewed

daily from 2-4pm (additional times by prior arrangement) and families can request an activity pack.

→ www.girton.cam.ac.uk/about/peoples-portraits-exhibition

Ringling in changes

SHINY NEW PHONES have already made their way to more than 4,000 University of Cambridge desks, with as many as 10,000 expected to be installed by December.

The new handsets are part of the first major overhaul of the University Telephone Network in more than 20 years. The new system uses Voice over Internet Protocol Technology and offers numerous improved features, including voicemail messages delivered via email and caller ID display.

The changeover, which is being completed one institution at a time, has been managed by a project team drawn from the University Computing Service, PTS Consulting, and BT iNET.

"While the team itself has been highly successful in meeting the

schedule and budgetary targets, there have been, as with any new system of this size, some technical issues that are constantly being chased and resolved," says Dr Jake Hornsby, Head of the Network Division for UCS.

Some new phone users may have had problems with the introduction of the new voicemail and call logging systems, but those issues should now be resolved. Production of institutional and individual self-service web pages for the billing system, however, have been slightly delayed due to the work needed to resolve the minor issues with the system.

"We hope to accelerate the work on these items and provide them in due course," says Dr Hornsby.

→ www.phone.cam.ac.uk

ALL NEW...

Montaigne himself



The University Library is currently showcasing its impressive collection of material associated with the French Renaissance essayist Michel de Montaigne (1533-1592). The exhibition, *My Booke and My Selfe: Michel de Montaigne 1533-1592*, includes books owned by the writer himself and continues until 23 December. Included is a 17th century edition of his *Essais* which belonged to Napoleon during his exile on St Helena, and copies owned by Ben Jonson and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. The most valuable book is Montaigne's own copy of Lucretius' *De rerum natura* (1563).

→ www.lib.cam.ac.uk/exhibitions/Montaigne

Fresh look for Newsletter

The *Newsletter's* design has been given a refreshment. The magazine's colour palette has been revised to include Cambridge Blue – that's the tint inside this sidebar – and the font for both body text and sidebar has been changed to versions of Myriad. The redesign was completed by Richard Reeve Design using new Identity Guidelines compiled by the Communications Services team in the Office of External Affairs and Communications.

→ [View the guidelines and download stationery and templates personalised for your department at www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/communications/services/](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/communications/services/)

New Regius Professor of Modern History



Richard J Evans, the eminent historian of 19th and 20th century Germany, takes up the post of Regius Professor of Modern History this month. Professor Evans, whose recent works include a three-volume history of the Third Reich, will be the 21st individual to hold the post, which was established by King George I in 1724 and is still appointed by the Crown. Professor Evans is widely acknowledged as one of the country's foremost living historians. He replaces Professor Quentin Skinner, who is retiring after a distinguished tenure of the Chair since 1996.

Holiday Playscheme

University and College staff can book their children into an Autumn Half-Term Holiday Playscheme from 27 to 31 of October. The Universities Holiday Playscheme is a joint operation between the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University for children of rising 5 to 15 years. For booking forms and costs, visit the Childcare office website. Advance bookings will close on 17 October.

→ www.cam.ac.uk/staffstudents/childcare/playscheme/

While many of us realise there is a complex relationship between Colleges and the wider University, the precise nature of the connection is not always understood. Here, we offer staff a primer ...

Colleges and University:

CAMBRIDGE IS a multi-faceted, multi-layered structure that has developed organically over nearly eight centuries. Perhaps the easiest way of understanding it is to look at the functions of the College and University, how they differ and how they overlap. Let's start at the beginning of the process, with admissions.

Admissions

Cambridge Colleges are free to select their own undergraduates for admission, subject to some minimum educational requirements set by the University. Unlike other universities, where Faculties and Departments select undergraduates for admission, in Cambridge this responsibility is held within the Colleges – a recognition of their distinctive combination of academic expertise and pastoral responsibility.

For financial reasons, each College effectively has a target number of 'home' (UK and EU) undergraduates it can admit each year. (For medical students only, there is a quota per College.) However, a College can, if it wishes, admit any number of 'overseas' undergraduates.

The admissions process for graduate students (those studying for a Masters or PhD) is a little different. A prospective graduate student must apply to and be accepted by a Faculty or Department of the University, a process handled by the Board of Graduate Studies. At the same time, students can – and most do – indicate a preference for a College.

Within the College, the Graduate Admissions Tutor makes the selection, from what is a large and international field of graduate applicants.

Teaching

For undergraduates, lectures – and, in science subjects, practicals – are provided centrally, by the University, and take place in the Faculties,

Departments and other lecture facilities dotted around Cambridge.

By contrast, supervisions – the individual or small-group tutorials that are the gold standard of a Cambridge undergraduate education – are arranged and paid for by the College. They are usually carried out by a Fellow or other College member, often in his/her College room. (Swap arrangements between Colleges exist for small subjects and specialisms in which it is impractical for every College to have its own teaching Fellow.)

Most of the College Fellows who direct studies or supervise undergraduates also hold University posts (lectureships, readerships, professorships). In financial terms, this means that the University pays the major proportion of their salaries, although the College pays for supervisions.

Most Colleges also employ some College Teaching Officers (CTOs) – whose salaries are paid entirely by the College – to supervise and direct studies in subjects where demand exceeds the supply of academics with University positions.

These CTOs and some University Teaching Officer (UTO) Fellows also bring their expertise to some of the other roles (Tutor, Admissions Tutor, etc.) that are essential to the working of the College as a residential community offering pastoral as well as academic support.

The formal teaching of graduate students is the responsibility of the Faculties and Departments, but Colleges also provide valuable, informal academic benefits for graduates, offering them a peer support network, a forum in which to present new research, and the chance to develop teaching expertise through supervisions.

Research

Most research in Cambridge is carried

The collegiate structure is central to Cambridge's success and provides an environment for generations and academic disciplines to mix freely



out in the Faculties and Departments, and is funded by the University via grants from HEFCE and the various government Research Councils. Junior Research Fellowships in the Colleges are a notable exception. These are three-year positions, paid for by the College, which offer talented young academics the chance to devote themselves to research without significant teaching or administrative duties. They are the Colleges' unique contribution to research excellence.

Facilities and pastoral support

For undergraduate and graduate students alike, the College provides key facilities: libraries and computer rooms; accommodation and catering; common rooms and bars; sporting, musical and artistic facilities; and, not least, individual pastoral support through the tutorial system. This last is a central and distinctive feature of

a complex relationship



NIGEL LUCKHURST

University Constables gather inside Clare College's Old Court prior to the 2007 University Honorary Degree ceremony.

the collegiate system, and is a major reason for the academic success of our students and Cambridge's extremely low drop-out rate. The University, too, provides academic and cultural facilities for all Cambridge students. Nevertheless, for most undergraduates, College will be their 'home' during their time at Cambridge.

Graduation

On successful conclusion of their studies, the Colleges present their students to the University, which confers their degrees. They remain members of both College and University for life.

The genius of scale

Given the complexity of the University-College relationship, would it not be better, some ask, if Cambridge simply centralised everything and the Colleges became mere halls of residence? Not

if Cambridge wants to remain in the top rank of universities worldwide, for the collegiate structure is central to Cambridge's success.

Because of the small-scale nature of the College community and the loyalty it inspires among its Fellows, undergraduates benefit from teaching by world-class researchers, a situation highly unusual in the leading research universities. College-based supervisions encourage intellectual rigour, freedom of thought, learning and debate.

In the Colleges, generations and academic disciplines mix freely. Students and Fellows experience the breadth and excellence of a top University at an intimate level. The Vice-Chancellor calls it the 'genius of scale'.

→ This article was originally published in Clare News, the bi-annual newsletter of Clare College.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Cambridge has 31 Colleges. The first Cambridge College, Peterhouse, was founded by the Bishop of Ely in 1284. None were founded between 1596 (Sidney Sussex) and 1800 (Downing). Robinson College, founded in 1979, was the most recent College established. However, Hughes Hall, which was founded in 1885, received full University College status in April 2007.
- Each College is an autonomous corporation and internal procedures vary. Like the University, each College is governed by its own statutes and regulations. The elected or appointed Head of a College may be termed Master, President, Principal, Mistress, Provost or Warden. The Governing Body is made up of the Head and some or all of the Fellows – the elected senior members of the College whose primary duty is teaching, administration or research.

- From the early 16th century, most elected Vice-Chancellors were already Heads of Colleges within the University, and from 1587 to 1992 all were. In 1992, the role of Vice-Chancellor became a full-time position.

LEARN MORE

For more details on the relationship between Colleges and the University, visit:

- www.cam.ac.uk/univ/works/colleges.html
- www.cam.ac.uk/univ/history/
- www.800.cam.ac.uk/page/168/800-years-of-history.htm

Arts, humanities and social sciences will take centre stage when the University holds its first-ever Festival of Ideas later this month. From 22 October to 2 November, more than 200 events will be held for people of all ages at venues throughout Cambridge. Read on for an idea of what to expect

A bright idea

AS ONE OF A HUGE range of academics taking part in Cambridge's first Festival of Ideas, social anthropologist Dr Kathleen Richardson sees the value in sharing research with a broader audience.

"It isn't always obvious how one's research is 'relevant,' 'interesting' and 'exciting' to those other than colleagues in the field," she says, "but encouraging academics to showcase their ideas to public audiences encourages new ways of thinking about one's subject."

The aim of the free festival, taking place 22 October to 2 November, is to reach out to people of all ages and let them know about all the work being done at the University in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Dr Richardson's session on Facebook

and social interactions is just one in a packed Festival schedule which includes workshops, performances, debates and lectures by well-known figures such as the BBC's Evan Davis, Michael Howard MP and Doug Richard of Dragon's Den.

Nicola Buckley, the Festival's coordinator, says it evolved out of the successful Science Festival, held annually at the University. Buckley says it was "fairly natural that these subjects should raise their profile," particularly since Cambridge has become increasingly associated with science and technology in the public's mind in recent years. She adds that when the Science Festival started in 1995

The packed Festival schedule includes workshops, performances, debates and lectures

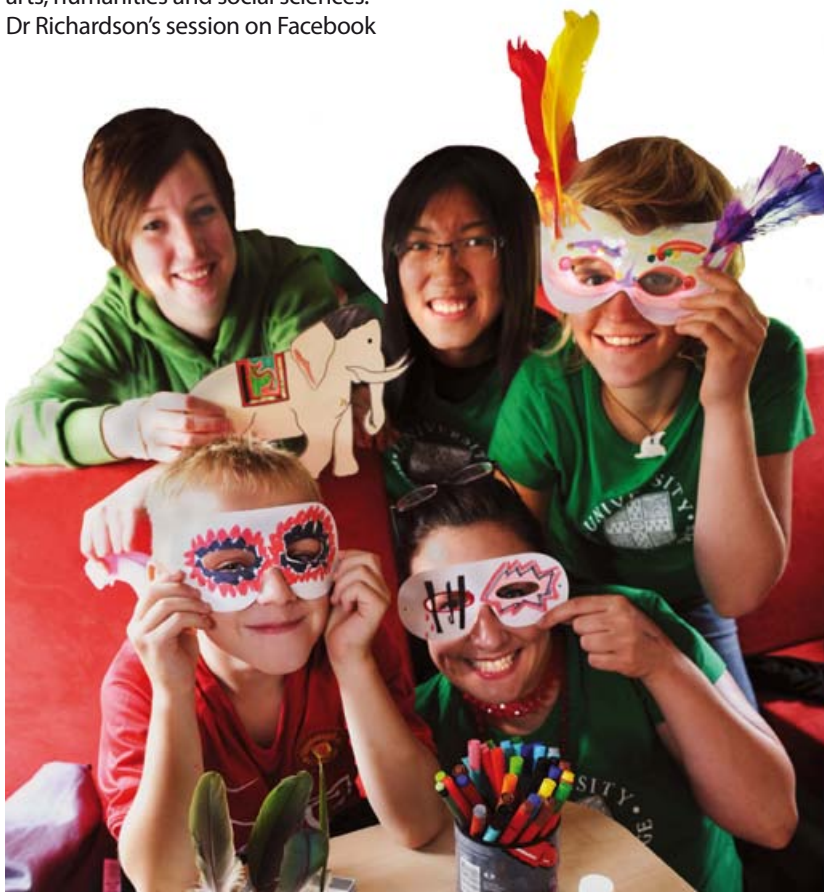
there were concerns about the lack of students wanting to study physics and engineering. There are similar concerns today for subjects such as Modern Languages and the Classics.

To determine what a Festival of Ideas could include and how it would be funded, meetings were held with the Chairs within both the School of Arts and Humanities and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences as well as with external funders. The Higher Education Funding Council for England's Innovation Fund has agreed to provide core funding for the first three years and Cambridge University Press is also contributing. Further sponsorship is being sought.

Every arts, humanities and social sciences department and the University's museums were challenged to come up with an event. Many events will take place at the Sidgwick Site, but they also will be spread across the city. The first Saturday — 25 October — will be a Family Day with scores of activities for children on offer, including poetry readings and a drumming workshop. Outreach work is also being done with schools and there are competitions lined up for the Festival website.

"The Festival is a wonderful opportunity to show the strength of Cambridge's research in the arts, humanities and social sciences and the way that these disciplines enrich and change our lives," says Professor Richard Hunter, Chair of the School of Arts and Humanities. "It is also a timely reminder of how this research does not just take place within the confines of the University but both draws on, and in turn gives back to, the societies all around us. I think that even University staff will be surprised at the breadth of what goes on."

→ www.cambridgefestivalofideas.org



PHOTOS BY PHILIP MYNOTT

The Festival of Ideas is targeted to all age groups, but children will be especially welcome for Family Day activities on 25 October.

SPOTLIGHT ON: PRE-HISTORY DAY



**25 October, 10.30am to 4pm,
34 A&B Storey's Way**

If you liked watching the javelin at the Olympics, why not take part in the real thing? Cambridge Archaeological Unit is holding a Pre-History Day. As part of the day, Dr Tony Legge has offered to make a 'spear thrower,'

which our prehistoric ancestors used as a kind of arm extension to gain greater leverage when hunting. Dr Legge will make some straw animal targets and demonstrate the spear thrower's use. Visitors will also be able to have a go using bamboo garden poles as spears. Those taking part can experience other aspects of the lives of our prehistoric ancestors. They can learn about food with demonstrations of stone-age cooking techniques, watch pottery firing and metal smelting using ancient kiln techniques, dig in an archaeological test pit and test their archery skills.

SPOTLIGHT ON: FACEBOOK

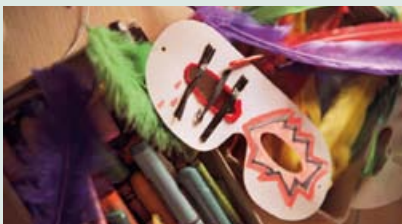
**25 October, 6:30 to 8pm,
Michaelhouse Centre**

Have Facebook and other social networking sites led to people having less intimate friendships? There is a popular assumption that the more people communicate through computerised technology, the less social they are. Young people in particular are



thought to lack social skills and experience because they are all locked up with computers in the home. It's an interesting paradox — we socialise through new technologies but are considered less social — and one which will be explored at this event. Hosted by social anthropologist Dr Kathleen Richardson, those taking part are Meg Pickard, Head of User Experience at the *Guardian*, Chris Lock, head of European mobile at AOL, Sue Hessey, Principal Research Professional at BT Group and Dr David Good from the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences.

SPOTLIGHT ON: VALUE OF ARTS?



**23 October, 7 to 8.30 pm,
McCrum Lecture Theatre**

Do we need any more arts graduates? Shouldn't universities focus instead on vocational courses tailored to the needs of the economy? These issues will be explored in a wide-ranging debate about the purpose of studying the arts,

humanities and social sciences. City University Professor of Journalism Adrian Monck says: "The skills that will build our future don't come from literary study of the arts. Students won't thank us when they're then unable to pay off loans, but are asked to rely on the consolation of philosophy." Philosopher Julian Baggini responds that philosophy is necessary in many areas of life and that "a lot of philosophy is worth doing for its own sake and needs no other justification." Other speakers are Professor John Carey, author of *What Good are the Arts?*, and Claire Fox, Director of the Institute of Ideas.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

For a complete listing of events, visit www.cambridgefestivalofideas.org

22 October

Press freedom in the Internet age

7-7.45pm, Babbage Lecture Theatre John Naughton, Director of the Wolfson Press Fellowship Programme, chairs. Panellists: Agnes Callamard, Head of Article 19, on the major challenges for press freedom in the world today; Gerry Gable, Editor of *Searchlight*, on hate speech in the UK today; Rhidian Wynn-Davies of the *Telegraph* on the impact of the Internet on press freedom; and Professor James Curran, co-author of *Power without Responsibility*, on media and democracy in the Internet age.

23 October

Jewish/Christian/Muslim relations

5.30-6.30pm, Mill Lane Room 4 Dr Edward Kessler, Director of the Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths, and Shaykh Michael Mumisa, Lecturer, Centre for the Study of Muslim-Jewish Relations, discuss interfaith relations.

24 October

Cambridge thinkers

5-5:30pm, Judge Business School Professor of Anthropological Science Alan Macfarlane on Cambridge's role in shaping the history of ideas.

The arts mean business

6-7.15pm, Judge Business School Professor Evelyn Welch, Director of the Arts and Humanities Research Council project Beyond Text, chairs. Panellists: Doug Richard, ex-Dragon's Den, on creative uses of technology in fields such as digital music and new media; Dr Jennifer Barnes, new President of Murray Edwards College and ex-Director of Education at BP, on music; John Quick of Royal Holloway on an innovative new media project; and Tim Jones, Head of City Life, on social enterprise.

25 October, Family Day

How to illuminate an elephant

10:30-11.30am, Lady Mitchell Hall, Sidgwick Site

Dr Christopher de Hamel, international expert on illuminated manuscripts, reveals the secrets of how illuminated manuscripts were designed and made.

Can texting make you more literate?

2:30-3.30pm, Lady Mitchell Hall Professor David Crystal

on whether texting is destroying literacy.

27 October

The limits of European integration

5:30-6:30pm, University Centre Dr Julie Smith, Deputy Director of the Centre for International Studies, Cambridge, chairs. Panellists: Michael Howard MP; Vince Cable MP; and Stephen Wall, ex-British ambassador to the EU.

Why study economics?

5:30-6:30pm, Mill Lane Room 4 Panellists: Evan Davis, BBC, on five things people should know about economics; Professor Willy Brown, Faculty of Economics, on the minimum wage; and Mike Kitson, University Lecturer in International Macroeconomics, on the relevance of economics to everyday life.

Cambridge's Inter-Faith Programme (CIP) is taking the lead in getting the world's religious leaders talking to one another

Keeping the faith

AS THE PLANE touched down at JFK Airport this July, Professor David Ford braced himself for the usual queue at immigration. He was, after all, a European trying to enter the United States – a process which usually takes at least 45 minutes.

Not even in these days of stringent security, however, had the Cambridge University Regius Professor of Divinity expected to receive personal attention. Before anyone was allowed to disembark a call went out for him to report to the crew. When he did, an armed homeland security officer (an Arabic speaker) took charge of him and whisked him past the queues en route to Yale University.

Ford was on his way to the first in a series of conferences entitled *A Common Word* – an international gathering of Christian and Muslim scholars and religious leaders. With assorted prominent Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims flying into the US, Yale had arranged for each visitor to be met

on entry. However, they could not be seen to be discriminating in favour of the Muslim participants; hence Ford's personal escort. It was, he observes, the fastest he has ever got into the country.

As Director of Cambridge's Inter-Faith Programme (CIP), Ford is used to these slightly surreal episodes. Over the past couple of years, he has intermittently rubbed shoulders with Princes, Prime Ministers, Grand Muftis and the Archbishop of Canterbury – or "Rowan", as he refers to him, since they are on first name terms, having studied theology together in Cambridge as students. The rather chaotic state of his office, with its heaps of paper and piles of religious reference books, belies the significance and scale of the international projects with which he is involved.

Based within the Faculty of Divinity, the Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme aims to foster discussion, research and understanding among people of all religions through study and mutual

"We want to make sure our work relates to the world out there"

engagement – in particular between the three Abrahamic Faiths: Islam, Judaism and Christianity. This month it will host the second *Common Word* conference at Jesus College – the follow-up to the Yale event in July. Archbishop Rowan Williams and Ali Gomaa, the Grand Mufti of Egypt, are among the dozens of eminent theologians and religious leaders expected to attend.

The conferences aim to keep alive a flurry of dialogue and action between

Professor David Ford greets Ali Gomaa, the Grand Mufti of Egypt. As Director of Cambridge's Inter-Faith Programme (CIP), Professor Ford often meets with spiritual leaders from around the world.



ON THE HORIZON FOR CIP

In 2005, the Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme (CIP) received funding from the Coexist Foundation – a charity promoting better understanding between Jews, Christians and Muslims – for a three-year study into the feasibility of two new projects. Both have now been given the go-ahead.

The first is to be a new research programme within CIP itself, meaning that in the coming months it will take on more staff and formulate new research projects designed to benefit the understanding and wider collaboration of faiths. Public education projects will also be devised, in liaison with the University's Institute for Continuing Education, and fundraising will begin for a directorship of public education.

The second project will see CIP collaborate with the Coexist Foundation and other partners in seeking to establish a new public education centre in London, with the provisional name of Abraham House. This is envisaged as a space which will host exhibitions, workshops, seminars, programmes, public performances, live debates, the publication of books, resources for schools and more. All will seek to deepen public understanding of the Abrahamic religions. CIP will provide much of the educational input, ensuring that what happens in its research projects and seminars here at Cambridge flows directly into public learning programmes and community action.

CIP's Director David Ford is mindful of the dangers which accompany this breadth of ambition. "We have to do it a step at a time and we don't want to get overblown," he says. "The working out of that whole programme and agenda is under way. Our priority now is to make sure we deal with the sort of issues to which Cambridge academics can make a serious contribution."

Christian and Muslim leaders which began with “A Common Word between Us and You”, a letter from 138 Islamic scholars, clerics and intellectuals, published a year ago. It was essentially a statement of peace and friendship to Christian leaders, in which the signatories stated that one thing both religions have in common is love of God and love of neighbour.

Ford called it an “historic” template for future relations, “an astonishing achievement of solidarity” and “what we have been missing since September 11”. As the hosting of the event at Jesus this month suggests, he has been deeply involved with developing its good work ever since. He was a signatory of the Christian response, published as a full page advertisement in the *New York Times*, which helped set in motion the series

of discussions and conferences now under way. He was also

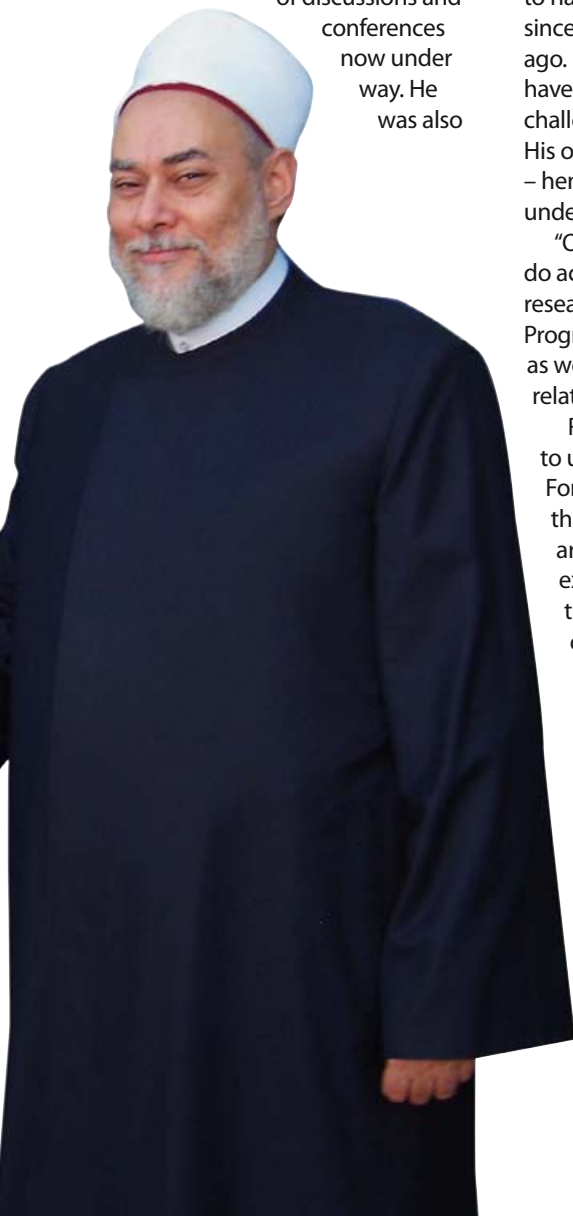
consulted with others from many universities and churches before the Archbishop of Canterbury sent a substantial personal reply in July, which stressed the need for both religions to work together for the common good of society.

How Christians and Muslims should do that, while accepting their differences as well as their mutual foundations, is what the conference in Cambridge is about. Two more conferences are expected to follow – at Georgetown and in Jordan – in the coming months. “To use Rowan’s terminology, the aim is to set out a way of going forward side by side in relation to the rest of the world,” Ford says.

Perhaps it seems a little surprising to find a Cambridge Divinity Professor in the thick of this. Consider, though, that theology is one of the few subjects to have been taught at the University since its foundation nearly 800 years ago. For centuries, Ford’s predecessors have wrestled with the theological challenges of contemporary society. His own generation is no different – hence CIP’s explicit aim to foster understanding between faiths.

“Obviously we are here to do academic work – teaching, research and so forth,” he says of the Programme. “But it has to be relevant as well. We want to make sure our work relates to the world out there.”

Relevance and realism seem to underpin CIP’s core messages. Ford makes no attempt to pretend that all three Abrahamic Faiths are fundamentally the same, for example, but he does argue that the way in which they co-exist often comes down to a choice between faith that is “good” and “wise” or “bad” and “foolish”. He sees society as a complex mix of the religious and secular that will work only if its assorted elements are in a state of constant negotiation. Different faiths do not have to agree, he says, but they must engage with one another in a climate of mutual understanding and respect. And in helping this to happen the contribution of education at all levels is crucial.



OTHER RECENT FINDINGS

Planning schemes still lack woman’s touch

Local authorities are failing to consider women’s needs in their planning schemes, more than a year after legislation designed to stop the problem was introduced, a University report has revealed this week. The study, by Dr Gemma Burgess, from the University of Cambridge Centre for Housing Research, says that the Gender Equality Duty introduced in 2007 is still being ignored by the vast majority of town and community planners. As a result, it argues, many people — usually women — are being left at a disadvantage because the layout of their local community takes no account of the different ways in which they use public space compared with men.

Neighbourly in Nebraska, nervous in New York



The personalities of people in the USA often differ according to the state in which they live, according

to a new study. Researchers used the results from more than half a million online surveys to create a “personality map” of the United States, showing that different types of people are more likely to live and flourish in different parts of the country. For example, North Dakotans are often more sociable and affable than most Americans, while people living in New York State tend to be more highly-strung and creative. The study was led by Dr Jason Rentfrow, a Lecturer in Psychology in the Department of Social and Developmental Psychology.

Land of the (early) rising sun

They say that early to bed, early to rise, makes one healthy, wealthy and wise; but in Japan, it may also be feeding a nationalist revival not seen since World War II. New research reveals how a countryside preoccupation with getting up early, last seen in Japan in the first half of the 20th century, is making a comeback. Furthermore, the study adds that in some cases it bears the hallmarks of a “conscious and co-ordinated attempt” to foster national identity. Many commentators and critics believe that Japan is presently undergoing a nationalist revival. Dr Brigitte Steger, a University Lecturer in Modern Japanese Studies who wrote the new report, argues that the fad for early rising is a more subtle manifestation of the same trend.

PEOPLE COMING



MR INDI SEEHRA took up the post of Human Resources Director in September. As a senior administrative officer, he will support the management of some of the 8,000 staff across the University. His career developed at United Friendly Insurance Inc, before becoming International HR Director for Crawford and Co. in Atlanta. He joined the Civil Service in 1999 as HR Director for the Crown Prosecution Service and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.



DR JENNIFER BARNES became the fourth President of Murray Edwards College (formerly New Hall) on the 1 October. She has a long pedigree in education both in the public and private sector, setting up programmes and international collaborations in the sciences, humanities, technology and the arts, including as the first Director of Education for BP. She is also the author of several publications, including *The Fall of Opera Commissioned for Television*, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

PEOPLE GOING



MRS ANNE LONSDALE has retired as President of Murray Edwards College. She has spent 12 years at the University: In 1998, she was made Pro-Vice-Chancellor for External Relations and in 2003, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor. She was awarded the CBE in 2004 for services to higher education. Dr Hatty Harris, Murray Edwards Vice-President, said, "Anne has been enormously positive in equipping the College for a secure and successful future; she has been an outstanding President whom we will remember with great affection."



MR STUART LAING has been elected Master of Corpus Christi College, effective 1 October. Stuart was previously Her Majesty's Ambassador in Kuwait. He read Classics at the College before entering the diplomatic service and working all over the world. After Arabic language study in Lebanon, he served in Saudi Arabia early in his career, and later in Cairo. He has been Deputy Ambassador in Prague and Riyadh, and was appointed High Commissioner to Brunei in 1998 and Ambassador to Muscat in 2002.



MR TOM LEVISON took over the role of Head of Widening Participation in July. He has previously worked in admissions for the University of East Anglia Medical (UEA) School and managed UEA's central recruitment team. He joins the seven-strong team within the Cambridge Admissions Office. His aim is to raise the profile of the University and the Colleges to encourage applications from students from state schools and college, from disadvantaged backgrounds, and from first generation university aspirants.

OBITUARY

Dave Hurworth (13 December 1943 – 16 May 2008) Dave Hurworth's long career at the University commenced in 1965 when he started work as a Senior Electronics Technician at the Department of Linguistics. He moved to the Audio Visual Aids unit in 1980 and to the Language Centre in 1995 as Senior Technical Officer until he retired in 2002. He was well known throughout the University for his great sense of humour and Yorkshire forthrightness. He will be sadly missed by his former colleagues and friends.

IN BRIEF

Mr Rob Brett has left the Cambridge University Botanic Garden to join the Eden Project, where he has been appointed Temperate Curator. In his new position, he oversees the tending of Eden's 13 outdoor hectares and the Mediterranean Biome. He joined the Cambridge Botanic Garden in 1999 after eight years at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. While at the University he oversaw the restoration and the replanting of the Glasshouses and the flowering of the Titan Arum (also known as the "Corpse Flower" due to its scent).

PRIZES, AWARDS & HONOURS

New Fellows of the British Academy

Six Cambridge academics were admitted to the British Academy in its latest round of appointments.

→ **John Tiley**, Professor of the Law of Taxation and Director for the Centre of Tax Law, and a Fellow of Queens' College has brought tax academics, lawyers and practitioners together to discuss the workings of the system. His research has dealt with tax avoidance, the interpretation of statutes and comparative approaches to revenue law.

→ **Paul Julian Smith**, Professor of Spanish and Fellow of Trinity Hall, specialises in Hispanic literature and culture, particularly that of Spain and Mexico, from the fifteenth century to the present day. His work focuses on cinema, television and visual culture in particular.

→ **Stephen Oakley** is Kennedy Professor of Latin and a Fellow of Emmanuel College. His research interests include Roman historians of the Republic, Tacitus and the transmission of Latin texts. Much of his work has focused on the early Republic.

→ **Julius Lipner** is Professor of Hinduism and the Comparative Study of Religion and a Fellow of Clare Hall. His research interests are 19th-century Bengal, inter-religious dialogue and classical Vedanta, a spiritual tradition found in the Upanishads.

→ **Martin Rudwick** is an affiliated research scholar at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science. His principal interest is the history of the earth sciences.

→ **Michael O'Brien**, Professor of American Intellectual History and Fellow of Jesus College, is noted for his work on the American South in the 19th and 20th centuries. He has examined its literature, political philosophy, historical imagination, and sense of self.

Royal Academy of Engineering

Four Cambridge engineers were admitted to the Academy this year.

→ **Malcolm Bolton**, Professor of Soil Mechanics and Director of the Schofield Centre for Geotechnical Process and Construction Modelling, was elected for his outstanding contributions to soil mechanics and



Dr Chris Smith, centre, strips science down to its basics for his radio programme, 'The Naked Scientist.'

geotechnical engineering.

→ **Dr David Cleevley**, a Visiting Fellow at the University's Computer Laboratory, was admitted for his contributions to telecommunications, in particular integration of engineering and economics and their application in technology development and regulation.

→ **Bill Clyne**, Professor of Mechanics of Materials and Director of the Department of Materials Science's Gordon Lab, was cited for his distinguished work on the thermomechanical behaviour of metal composites, layered systems, sandwich sheets, metallic foams and surface coatings. His work is notable for close collaboration with small companies developing new scientific discoveries into new products.

→ **Norman Fleck**, Professor of Engineering and Director of the Centre for Micromechanics, was elected for his seminal contributions to solid mechanics. His work established the basic understanding of size effects in plasticity, the optimal design of metallic foams and lattice materials, and the mechanics of ferroelectrics.

Royal Society Awards

Four Cambridge scientists have been recognised by the Royal Society for their work.

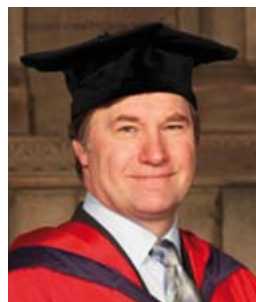
→ **Sir Alan Fersht FRS**, Herchel Smith Professor of Organic Chemistry and Director of the Centre for Protein

Engineering, received a Royal Medal for his substantial contributions to science. The medal recognises his work on protein engineering and the problem of protein folding, for which he has developed new methods of measurement.

→ The Leverhulme Medal, a triennial award for contributions to chemistry or engineering, went to **Anthony Cheetham**, Goldsmith's Professor of Materials Science. For the last decade, he has worked on hybrid organic/inorganic materials, which combine the advantages offered by both.

→ **Dr Chris Smith**, a Clinical Lecturer in Virology, won the Kohn Award for his success in bringing science to a wider audience. As 'The Naked Scientist' he fronts a BBC local radio show stripping science down to the basics. The programme is the most 'listened to again' show on every station on which it is broadcast and currently tops the science charts for downloads in the US.

→ **John Barrow**, Professor of Mathematical Sciences, was awarded the Michael Faraday Prize for his exemplary science communication to a lay audience. His work has explored cosmology, gravitation and particle physics, as well as the wider cultural effects of maths, physics and astronomy, in more than 430 articles, 19 books and the award winning play *Infinities*.



Professor John Barrow

IN BRIEF

→ Eleven Cambridge students and alumni formed part of Team GB at the Olympics, claiming one Gold medal, four Silvers and one Bronze. Trinity Hall graduates **Emma Pooley** and **Tom James** took a silver and a gold respectively, whilst rowing silvers were won by **Tom Stallard** of Jesus College and **Josh West** of Gonville and Caius College in the Men's Eight and by **Annie Vernon** of Downing College in the Women's Quad. A Bronze medal was taken by **Anna Bebington** of Newnham College in the Double Sculls.

→ **Martin Kenneth Jones**, Professor of Archaeological Science, was awarded the Food Book of the Year Prize for *Feast: Why Humans Share Food*. The book explains how humans came to eat in groups, unlike many other animals. His work was inspired by his interest in food sharing in the Upper Palaeolithic era and involved a study of how chimpanzees find, kill, prepare and divide their food supplies.

→ **Caroline Humphrey**, Sigrid Rausing Professor of Collaborative Anthropology, won the Henry Allen Moe Prize of the American Philosophical Society. The award was presented for her paper 'Alternative Freedoms', which explores the many meanings that Russians attach to the ideas for which English-speakers use 'freedom' and explains why Russians are ambivalent about certain concepts of freedom and which they particularly cherish.

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→ France, Catalonia / Catalunya

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→ France, Provence

Large comfortable flat (80m²) in idyllic resort of Carry-le-Rouet embraced between land and sea wildlife reserves and close to the Camargue and Marseilles. Seafront, beach and coves within 50 to 100 metres. Excellent for scuba diving, snorkelling, sailing, walking and cycling. Near all provencal heritage treasures. Sleeps 6 comfortably. 20 minutes Marseille's airport. 30 minutes from Marseille's TGV station. Available in August and other times. Contact: Anita.Ogier.ao10001@cam.ac.uk

→ France, Vienne

3 cosy gîtes, Les Ecuries 1 & 2 and La P'tite Boulangerie, each sleeping 4, in courtyard of old mule-breeding farm in countryside. Ping-pong, boules, sun-loungers, 10 x 5 metre swimming pool May – September. Suitable for couples/young families. Pets welcomed. Village with bakers 2 miles. Convenient – just off RN10 between Poitiers (Ryanair – ¾ hr) and Angoulême. Open all year. Contact: www.lacharronniere.com

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→ North Yorkshire Moors

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→ Suffolk, Butley

Comfortable, spacious, well-equipped cottage with piano in Butley, Suffolk. Available for Aldeburgh Festival, weekends and short breaks throughout the year. Close to Orford, Sutton Hoo, Snape and Minsmere.

Sleeps up to 8. More information: www.butleycottage.co.uk Contact: Miranda on 01223 357035 or info@butleycottage.co.uk

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→ Sutton, Ely

4 bedroom mid-terrace house with garage. Built approx. 1971. Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac in a popular village, (17 miles from Cambridge and 7 miles from Ely) with a good primary school, shops and pub. (No chain) Price: £160,000. The option to rent this property is also available. Contact: For information and photos, bgb21@cam.ac.uk

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Tuesday evenings from 7.45 pm – 9.15 pm re-starting on 16 September 2008. Why not come and try a FREE TRIAL CLASS? Cost per session: £4 pw (you only pay for the weeks you attend). Everyone is welcome, regardless of level or experience. (Teenagers from 14 yrs-16 yrs are encouraged to attend to ease the stress of their examinations.) Please wear something comfortable and bring a mat/towel to lie on. Free parking is available near St George's Church Hall, Chesterfield Road, Cambridge. Contact: Ms Susan Pocock via email chestertonballetschool@hotmail.com or tel. 01223 366588, or locate further details about these classes via the weblink www.chestertonballetschool.co.uk/

→ Skiing

Skiing of yesteryear at Les Deux Alpes, at prices to match. Charming family-run hotel where the guests are everything. Situated in traditional

French Alpine village with rapid access to the resort and glaciers at 3600 metres. Excellent home cuisine and all modern facilities. Discounts on skipasses, ski school and equipment, in-house guiding. Contact: www.hotel-venosc-deux-alpes.fr or me, Bob Butcher, for enthusiastic advice, rjb2@cam.ac.uk

→ Fitness for All

The Leys School on Trumpington Road has opened its state of the art Gymnasium and is now looking for new members to join. The member package includes use of the gym, squash, badminton and tennis courts, three swims a week in the heated pool and members' families are invited to swim with them. The latter offer costs £350 per year but cheaper offers are available. Contact: 01223 508986 or plt@theleys.net

→ Salsa Every Friday

SalsaBravo Classes for all levels 7:30 – 9:30 at St Paul Centre, Upper Hall (Hills Road). 10:00 to 10:30 a bonus class of Merengue, Bachata or Cha Cha Cha. 10:30 party till late (friendly atmosphere, great music). Class+club: £8, club: £4. You can book SalsaBravo for hen parties, birthdays and corporate events. Private salsa lessons and gift vouchers available. More information: www.salsacambridge.com Contact: 077 298 298 06 or info@salsacambridge.com

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→ Classical Music

Come and enjoy an evening of classical music at the Cambridge Corn Exchange. Some of the best orchestras in Europe present a programme of some of the most poignant and powerful, moving and gloriously melodic orchestral works

ever written, in this season's six Cambridge International Series concerts between October and May (students' tickets just £16 for all seats). Contact: Box Office on 01223 357851, www.comex.co.uk

VOLUNTEERS

→ Expecting a Baby?

If you are pregnant and your baby is due to arrive between November and early March, you may be interested in taking part in a programme in which medical students learn from expectant mothers. For six years over 700 women have helped students develop an understanding of pregnancy and childbirth by hearing from mothers-to-be. (No physical examination is involved). Contact: If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Joanna Griffiths on 01223 769285/769288 or e-mail jg239@medschl.cam.ac.uk or pfp@medschl.cam.ac.uk

→ Concert Orchestra

The Cambridge Concert Orchestra, www.cambridgeconcertorchestra.org has vacancies for double bass, French horn and other instruments. Charitable ethos for concerts with a lively musical selection of film themes, show tunes and light classics. No auditions and friendly social scene of 60 members – town and gown. Contact: Please email concerts@cambridgeconcertorchestra.org for more information

→ Wintercomfort

Want to help rough sleepers come in from the cold on freezing winter nights? Wintercomfort is looking to develop a pool of volunteers to work on a rota basis alongside a paid professional. The service operates from 8.00pm – 8.00am when temperatures fall below freezing. Contact: If you think you can help and want to find out more, please contact Pauline Eley on 01223 518140 or Pauline.admin@wintercomfort.org.uk

→ Wintercomfort Mega-Street Collection

We have huge ambitions for Friday November 28th with permits to collect across the City from 9.00am – 6.00pm. Experience tells us (unsurprisingly!) that the more collectors we have, the more money we raise. This event could raise thousands of pounds for Wintercomfort and is one of our main fundraising events of the year. Contact: If you can spare some time, contact Clare Price by email on clare@covermail.co.uk so you can be 'booked in'

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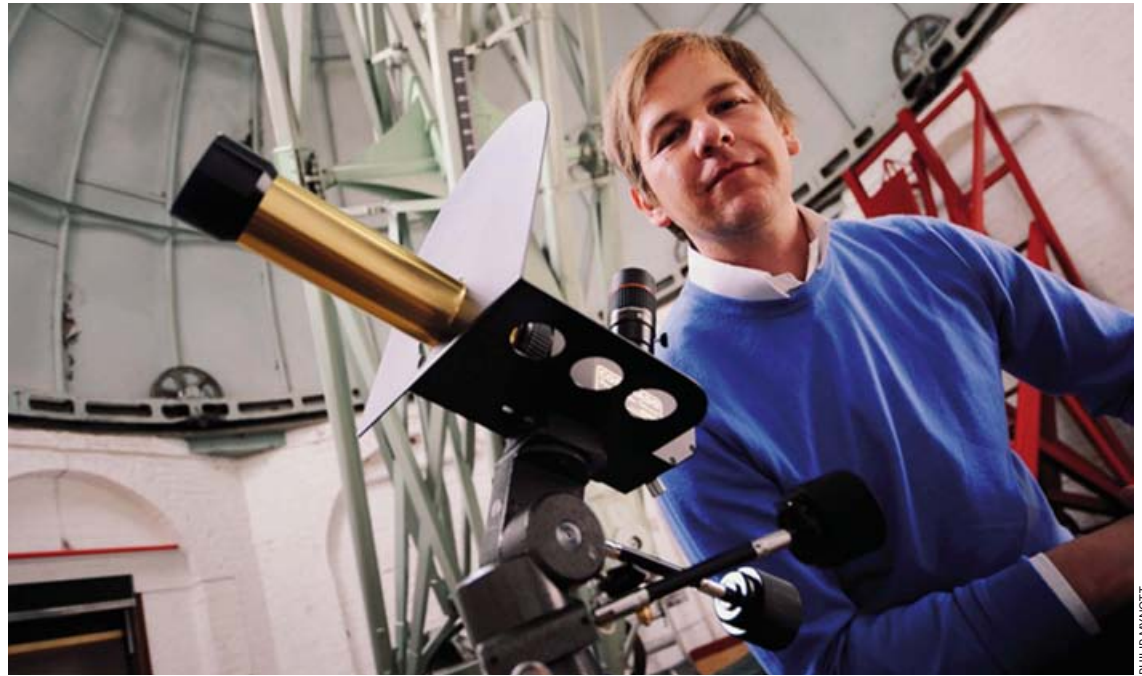
FINDING THE ART IN SCIENCE

WHEN YOU HEAR the word “research” what images spring to mind? Complex graphs on a computer screen, a laboratory full of gleaming equipment, an array of microscopes and test tubes? In an era dominated by increasingly advanced digital technology, what may not come to mind is something as simple as pencil and paper.

However, remember the meticulous drawings made by Charles Darwin on his voyage on the *Beagle*; think of the quick explanatory sketch made by a surgeon for a patient on the eve of an operation. More immediate and flexible than the computer-generated imagery, drawing remains a vital – though often overlooked – means of both visualisation and communication.

The use of drawing and other creative media to convey and record scientific observations and theories is an aspect of the researcher’s skill set that has fascinated Barry Phipps for a number of years. “Few scientists see themselves as artists, yet they use drawing as a method for exploration and explanation – with a pen or pencil in hand, a sketch helps us to work things out and explain them to others and to ourselves,” he says.

Trained as a fine artist, and with an academic career that combines art history, architecture and philosophy, Phipps is a Fellow at Churchill College and the Curator at the Institute of



As Curator at the Institute of Astronomy (IoA), Barry Phipps is working to bridge the gap between astronomy and art.

Astronomy (IoA). The latter post was created to, as he puts it, “devise new strategies and approaches to see how we can bridge the gap between the specialized vocabulary of astronomy, art, and the general interest of the public; between the expertise of skilled researchers, inventive practitioners and the concerns of an inquisitive audience.”

Now in his third year at Churchill, Phipps has already curated several Cambridge-based exhibitions. Most recently, *Beyond Measure: Conversations Across Art and Science* (Kettle’s Yard, 2008) celebrated the common ground to be found in the shapes, forms and patterns used by artists, mathematicians, architects, scientists and others, as a means to understand, explain and order the world around us.

With the support of Professor Gerry Gilmore and Dr Carolin Crawford at IoA, Phipps has now embarked on his most ambitious project to date – a three-stranded initiative that will link astronomical research with contemporary art.

The first strand is an Artists Associate Scheme that will bring contemporary artists into the IoA over

a two-year period to exchange ideas and explore common themes.

The second strand, an Aesthetics of Astronomy Symposium next summer, will focus on the way images from deep space are created from data received from space telescopes – for example, the visualisation of black holes and other phenomena that cannot be “seen” in the way we see the objects around us, even when using the most powerful instruments.

Phipps explains: “Our aim is that the symposium will enable contemporary artists and astronomers to find parallels and connections in each others work, thereby opening up new ways of visualising research and inspiring new works of art.”

A public lecture series planned for autumn 2009 will form the third strand. The focus will be on the intersection between contemporary art practice and astronomical research. “Few sciences,” Phipps says, “have as close an historical relationship with the visual arts as astronomy.”

→ For details on his interdisciplinary work, contact Barry Phipps, bjp31@cam.ac.uk

GOING BATTY FOR DARWIN

Ordinarily, depicting a human face using only lizards, amphibians and winged creatures could come across as, well, creepy. But Simon Crowhurst’s portrait of Charles Darwin, right, actually manages to be flattering. Crowhurst, a Senior Research Technician in the Department of Earth Sciences, recently won first prize for his drawing in the adult (19+) category of the Designing Darwin Competition run by the British Society for the History of Science (BSHS). The competition was organised by the BSHS as part of celebrations to mark the bicentenary of Darwin’s birth.





CONNECTING CAMBRIDGE WITH CHINA

FUNDS RAISED THROUGH the 800th Anniversary Campaign are making a difference in many areas of the University. The Department of East Asian Studies is benefitting from a recent gift to endow a Professorship.

AS A GRADUATE student at Cambridge in the 1990s, Roel Sterckx was a bit in awe of Dr Joseph Needham. He still vividly remembers the nerves he felt when asked to present a text-reading exercise to him. Dr Needham, who died in 1995, was a renowned Cambridge sinologist and biochemist whose crowning achievement was a series of volumes titled *Science and Civilisation in China*. The volumes attracted an international team of collaborators and are still being added to more than 50 years on.

"When I was a graduate student, he was in the autumn of his life," says Professor Sterckx, now a cultural historian with a focus on early China. "I'm very glad to have had the chance to meet him."

These days, it may well be Professor Sterckx who rattles the nerves of graduate students. He is the first post holder of the Joseph Needham Professorship of Chinese History, Science, and Civilization, funded by a £1.25 million East Asian History of Science Foundation Hong Kong gift. This gift has been supplemented by £750,000 from an £8 million Trinity College donation to the Campaign which supports Professorships in the



PHILIP WYNOTT

Schools of Arts and Humanities and the Humanities and Social Sciences.

The gifts provide for the retitling and funding in perpetuity of the University's Professorship of Chinese, which was held by Professor Sterckx.

Not surprisingly, the funds for the

endowment were welcome news in the Department of East Asian Studies.

"It sends out a message that this University is fully committed to the study of the Chinese language, China's rich cultural history, and its vast literary and documentary heritage," he says. "We're not just jumping on the bandwagon – the first Professorship of Chinese was established 120 years ago – so to see this post endowed is quite an achievement."

Auspiciously, in light of the Chinese belief that the number eight is a lucky number, the original professorship was established in 1888 and its endowment takes place in 2008.

As China takes a more prominent place on the world stage, research that examines China in all its diversity and historical contexts will become increasingly valuable, Sterckx believes. With a large East Asian collection in the University Library; the presence of the nearby Needham Research Institute, a centre for the study of the history of East Asian science, technology and medicine; and the University's own Faculty, he thinks Cambridge is sure to take on a leadership role in Chinese studies.

"Cambridge is already the best place to study early China in Europe," he says.

→ www.foundation.cam.ac.uk/800-home.php

→ www.ames.cam.ac.uk/deas

DAYS OUT FOR KIDS

Explore the Milton Maize Maze, learn about science at a University museum or play badminton at the Sawston Sports Centre: These are just a few of the 1,100 child-friendly venues and attractions in Cambridge and East of England listed on Ideas for the Kids, a website designed for parents.

If you fancy heading further from home, there are more than 10,000 suggestions throughout the UK. The

site is free to use and aims to help parents find new and interesting places to take their kids – be it for a day out, a holiday or long weekend or a school trip. Entries include details to make your planning easier, including descriptions, addresses, contact info, facilities, opening times, costs, links to venue websites and area maps.

→ www.IdeasForTheKids.co.uk

