

NEWSLETTER

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

APRIL/MAY 2010

All a buzz

Flies, genetics and
medical breakthroughs



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



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is helping Haiti**

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to University staff**

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SNAPSHOT

Chinese new year: The year of the tiger began with a roar thanks to the Chinese Students and Scholars Association in Cambridge. It organised a gala event at the Cambridge Corn Exchange on 6 February to showcase Chinese culture and celebrate the new lunar year. The evening included comedy, magic shows, orchestral music, singing, martial arts and folk dancing. It was organised in conjunction with the Education Section of the Chinese Embassy.



Art competition: Sixth-formers from across the country came to Clare last month to talk about their favourite works of art. The ARTiculation competition, organised by the University and Roche Court Educational Trust, saw entrants giving short talks to their teachers and fellow students about the pieces that inspired them. The final at Clare included an art history study day, and the competition was judged by artist Antony Gormley, pictured.



The misaligned county: Cambridge academic and author Robert Macfarlane brought a little known side of Essex to the small screen in February. His BBC film *The Wild Places of Essex*, based on his best-selling book *The Wild Places*, captured a year he spent exploring a county better known for white stilettos and boy racers than beautiful countryside. However, Robert found animals, birds and woodlands thriving alongside the motorways and industrial sprawl.



AGB FILMS

On camera: This picture by Clare undergraduate Laura Pilkington was one of two winners in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Student Photography Competition. It shows a night market in Beijing, China. Many of the pictures from the competition are on display in the faculty foyer and common room.



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The humble fruit fly is helping Cambridge scientists fight back against some of our deadliest diseases. Turn to page 8



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NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER ONLINE

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 **28 April**.

Millennium Maths' Olympic triumph



The Fosbury Flop – it all adds up

EVER WONDERED WHY high-jumpers use the Fosbury Flop, or why there are so many scoring systems for different sports?

All this and more will be explained by a new initiative designed by the Millennium Maths Project.

The Maths + Sport: Countdown to the Games project, due to be launched formally in September, will produce free online resources exploring the mathematics, engineering, technology and science behind the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. It has just been awarded the prestigious Inspire Mark, made to non-commercial organisations for events inspired by the games.

The project will consider not only how sports are played but also how maths contributes to the design of Olympic buildings and the probability that an athlete who fails a drugs test is taking a performance-enhancing substance.

Lord Sebastian Coe, Chair of the London Organising

Committee of the Games, says part of the vision for the 2012 Olympics was to boost participation in education. "Maths + Sport: Countdown to the Games will encourage young people to fulfil their potential," he said.

Professor John Barrow, Director of the Millennium Maths Project, says the aim is to inspire students and teachers, and to show them that maths is fun. "We believe the role played by maths in sport offers an exciting opportunity to enrich the teaching of maths in schools. Maths + Sport will also offer a new and deeper perspective for everyone on what is going on during the sporting events at the London Games."

To find out more about the project visit <http://mmp.maths.org/>



Madingley Hall unveils open days

STAFF ARE INVITED to make the most of Madingley Hall's gardens this summer in a series of outdoor events.

The gardens' borders, lawns, topiary, courtyard, walled gardens and meadows can all be accessed in a series of open events. The first takes place on 9 May, the second on 20 June. The latter will be in aid of the National Gardens Scheme, which raises money for nursing, caring, cancer and gardening charities. The final open day will take place on 12 September and will be in aid of conservation charity Plant Heritage.

Meanwhile, if music and food be your loves, why not bring a picnic to one of two open air opera performances in the gardens? First up on 13 August is *The Marriage of Figaro*, followed by *The Magic Flute* on 14 August.

Finally, Madingley Hall hosts a number of garden-related courses – from illustrating flowers to identifying Britain's native trees. For more information, visit www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk.



FIND OUT MORE

Adult opera tickets are priced at £25, with children (5 to 16) at £10. Call (01223) 746222 to book. Open days start at 2.30pm and finish at 5.30pm. Adults pay £4, children are free. Call (01223) 746222 for further information.

Opportunities from your colleagues at the Institute of Continuing Education

Here at the Institute we offer a wide range of part-time and short courses in subjects ranging from archaeology through to science – and a whole host in between. Courses run at our headquarters, Madingley Hall, in Cambridge itself, across the Eastern region and via our online classrooms. Study during the weekend, evening, day or through our summer schools. As well as being taught by experts in their field and the chance to meet like-minded individuals, many of our courses can lead to formal qualifications.

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Women's Word returns with high-class line-up



LIVELY DEBATE, leading female authors and practical advice on creative writing are just three reasons to visit this year's Women's Word festival in June.

This is the second year that the event – held at, and organised by, Lucy Cavendish – has taken place, and already it is proving itself capable of attracting some of the best-known names in contemporary women's fiction.

Speakers at last year's event included Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy and novelist and playwright Fay Weldon. This year's participants include broadcaster Joan Bakewell and novelists Ali Smith and Stella Duffy.

The programme features a number of eye-catching debates, including one featuring writer Natasha Cooper about accusations of violence and misogyny in crime novels by female authors.

Another event that is bound to stimulate discussion is Peter Silverton – journalist and author of *Filthy English* – in conversation with novelist Maggie Alderson about women and swearing.

Eye catching: Women's Word features leading writers such as Joan Bakewell, pictured right



Other highlights are a performance of Carol Ann Duffy's poetry collection *The World's Wife*, and appearances by feminist campaigner Kat Banyard, novelist and poet Sophie Hannah and writer Janice Galloway.

Meryl Davies, Head of Development at Lucy Cavendish, said: "Women's Word isn't just a literary event – it's a celebration of women's voices and forms of expression. It's also a great opportunity to put Lucy Cavendish on the map, and to showcase what we are for: which is to provide women over the age of 21 a place to study at Cambridge, whatever their background."



FIND OUT MORE

For more information about Women's Word visit <http://www.lucy-cav.cam.ac.uk/>

IN BRIEF...

Grubby business



Visitors to Christ's may have noticed something missing in the college's First Court – the grass on its famous round lawn. The problem? An infestation of *melolontha melolontha*, commonly referred to in East Anglia as the May bug or spang beetle. According to Dr Geoffrey Ingham, Honorary Garden Steward at Christ's, the beetle has been making its way through the First Court lawn for the past three or four years. Says Dr Ingham: "Adult beetles lay eggs in the grass, which develop as grubs for up to four years, feeding on the roots. The removal of the now almost rootless turf has exposed the grubs, and we are now confident that frost, birds and chemical treatment will lead to their elimination."

St John's and Girton concerts

Two performances of Monteverdi's *Vespro della Beata Vergine* will take place at Girton and St John's this month. The concerts will feature the wind ensemble His Majestys Sagbutts and Cornetts, Cambridge University Collegium Musicum and a vocal ensemble comprising choral scholars from leading Cambridge choirs. The concert will take place on 23 April in Girton College Hall, and 24 April in St John's College Chapel. Tickets are available from the ADC box office (www.adcticketing.com) and Girton College Development Office (development@girton.ca.ac.uk).

Sidney success

Two young chefs from Sidney Sussex have won a silver medal at the UK's top culinary event in London. Phillip Crouch and Brian Girdlestone were competing in the Essential Cuisine Masterclass at the International Hotelympia exhibition. The two chefs had 60 minutes to prepare and serve a three-course menu.

Fitzwilliam Museum

Our story in the last issue of the *Newsletter* about the Fitzwilliam Museum's collection of Greek and Roman antiquities contained several inaccuracies. It was the Greek and Roman Gallery only that was refurbished, and the displays – rather than the collections – that were upgraded and redesigned.

→ Pay a visit to the online edition of the Newsletter:
www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/newsletter/

Gates scholarships toast ten-year success



Gates scholars find their feet at Cambridge at an orientation week

WHEN ANDY ROBERTSON became one of the first Gates Cambridge Scholars in 2001 he was happy to sail into uncharted waters. "I love these situations. I find them exciting, and the idea that we were operating without the burden of tradition or precedent was liberating," he says.

"We were the inaugural class of an international scholarship that will last beyond the foreseeable future – for decades and centuries. That was an awesome feeling"

That inaugural class quickly went to work creating a sense of community, setting up the Gates Scholars Council and an orientation week, both of which survive today, ten years after the programme came into being.

This year is the tenth anniversary of the Gates Cambridge Scholarships. Set up in 2000, and funded by a \$210 million donation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, its aim was to create an international network of scholars that would have a transformative effect on society. The scholarships enable brilliant postgraduates from outside the UK who have a strong interest in social leadership to study at Cambridge.

This year will also see trust Provost Gordon Johnson step down. He will be

succeeded by Fitzwilliam Master Professor Robert Lethbridge. Dr Johnson has overseen the trust's growth to its present state as a mature programme supporting more than 270 international scholars in Cambridge and nearly 1,000 in total.

The tenth anniversary celebrations are already under way. In February, more than 100 alumni, scholars and Gates interviewers attended the British Embassy in Washington, while this month sees

the first European Gates Scholars Alumni event in Berlin.

The major UK celebration will be between 2 and 4 July, when alumni and scholars from around the world will

come to Cambridge to attend a weekend of workshops, lectures and debates.

Although the programme is relatively young, great things are expected of its alumni. One scholar, David Dillon, who arrived at Cambridge in 2009 to study public health policy, said that even during the interview process he felt there were "101 people who had the potential to change the world".

The US contingent of this year's tenth anniversary intake was announced in February. Twenty-nine students from 20 states were whittled down from an initial field of some 800 applicants and an

interview shortlist of 104. Scholars from the rest of the world will be announced later in the spring.

Over the years, the Gates Cambridge Scholarship programme has gone out of its way to interview students that best fit its aims. PhD student Kathelijne Koops, for instance, was interviewed in the Nimba mountains in west Africa, where she was researching chimpanzee behaviour. Alice Chang, a 2008 MPhil student, was interviewed in a field in China surrounded by cows. She was in China to set up an NGO dealing with eye problems.

As for the future, Professor Lethbridge is looking forward to growing the scholarship from its infant years through early adolescence, and hopes to encourage more students from around the world to take up the challenge of this exceptional opportunity.

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After the quake

The Haiti earthquake killed 130,000 people, left 300,000 injured and made a million homeless. On these pages we feature some of the people with Cambridge connections who are making a valuable contribution to the recovery and rebuilding of the country



LOUISE BLOOM,
LOGISTICS OFFICER

Louise studied engineering at Trinity from 2003 to 2007, joining Engineers without Borders UK (EWB-UK) in her second year. In autumn 2008 she began volunteering with Save the Children's new Logistics, Skills and Development Programme. Five days after the earthquake struck, she flew to Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic to work as a Logistics Officer, making visits over the border to Haiti. Here is an edited extract from blogs she wrote in February.

"In Santo Domingo we have been coordinating a great deal of the supply of goods into Haiti. Last week three of us drove in an overnight minibus to Port-au-Prince from the Santo Domingo Save the Children office to strengthen our understanding of the other side of our supply chain. At the border, the queue of trucks with humanitarian aid was huge.

Many other organisations are working in similar ways to us due to the broken markets and limited capacity of the airports in Haiti.

"The situation is quite horrific in Port-au-Prince. It will take a long time to rehome people. There are hundreds

"There are hundreds of informal settlements dotted around"

of informal settlements dotted around the city. People are living under plastic sheeting or any other materials they can find. It must have been so tragic for people to see everything collapse around them in a few seconds.

"Distribution of aid has been quite difficult as there are so many desperate people in need. But it was great to see some of the kits of hygiene/household goods that we had made in the Dominican Republic handed over to people when we visited a distribution site in Port-au-Prince."



LYNNE JONES,
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISER

Dr Jones, an honorary research associate in Developmental Psychiatry at Cambridge, is senior mental health adviser for the International Medical Corps (IMC) and has been in Haiti since the end of January.

She is leading a team of psychiatrists sent by IMC to offer mental health services to those affected by the disaster. This is done through mobile primary healthcare teams and by training Haitian healthcare workers to look after those with new mental disorders (brought on by acute stress) and those with existing disorders, who are now more vulnerable due to a lack of medication and family support.

Dr Jones, who has worked as an adviser after earthquakes in Indonesia and Pakistan, collaborated with other relief agencies to coordinate a mental health response to the earthquake – including the way in which the dead are treated and relatives are informed.

In the wake of the disaster, IMC now has 15 mobile primary healthcare clinics in Port-au-Prince and in the worst-affected Ouest province. Each has seen hundreds of people every day. In the longer term, Dr Jones says the presence of international health experts in Haiti may lead to improvements in community mental health services.



"The situation in Port-au-Prince is quite horrific. It will take a long time to rehome people"



**KEIKO SAITO,
SCIENTIST**

Dr Keiko Saito is a Senior Research Associate, Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) scientist working within the Cambridge University Centre for Risk in the Built Environment. She specialises in the application of GIS and particularly remote sensing to aid the assessment of the risks in the built environment. Her PhD developed the use of high-resolution satellite images for post-earthquake damage assessment.

As director of the independent consultancy Cambridge Architectural Research (CAR), Dr Saito has been commissioned by the World Bank to contribute to assessing the damage

caused by the earthquake to the buildings and infrastructure of Haiti.

The bank is currently undertaking a post-disaster needs assessment to determine the scale of reconstruction financing that will be needed.

"More than half of all buildings in Port-au-Prince are destroyed or damaged"

More than half of all buildings in Port-au-Prince are destroyed or seriously damaged, meaning the task of assessing the damage on the ground is immense.

New techniques for damage assessment from satellite imagery are being used for the first time, and a preliminary damage map has been produced using a large volunteer force.

With CAR, Dr Keiko is preparing a quality assessment of that map, using low-level aerial reconnaissance images.

FIND OUT MORE

- Engineers without Borders UK is an international organisation that removes barriers to development through engineering. Its programmes provide opportunities for young people to learn about technology's role in tackling poverty. www.ewb-uk.org
- Shelter Centre supports the sector of humanitarian operations that responds to the transitional settlement and reconstruction needs of populations affected by conflicts and natural disasters. www.sheltercentre.org info@sheltercentre.org
- The Humanitarian Centre aims to maximise the impact Cambridge has on alleviating global poverty and inequality. It does this by bringing together individuals and organisations engaged in international relief and development work. www.humanitariancentre.org



**TOM CORSELLIS,
NGO EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

Dr Corsellis is the Executive Director of Geneva-based Shelter Centre – an NGO that grew out of his work as a PhD student in the Department of Architecture at Cambridge. Shelter Centre supports the sector of humanitarian operations that responds to the shelter and reconstruction needs of populations affected by conflicts and natural disasters. It offers practical solutions, from technical manuals developed with Oxfam, to policy guidelines developed with the United Nations and World Bank.

Days after the Haiti earthquake, Dr Corsellis was seconded by the UK Department for International Development to lead the unit in charge of coordinating humanitarian shelter efforts.

In an email written after he returned to Geneva he wrote: "The government understood immediately that tents would last only months, while reconstruction would take years. We agreed to use the 'transitional shelter' approach and will build simple structures using familiar materials, similar to what poor people have always built in Haiti, but strong enough to resist hurricanes and earthquakes.

"We must support safer reconstruction now, not next year. Earthquakes don't kill people, buildings kill people."



**PHILLIDA
STRACHAN,
EMERGENCY
OFFICER**

Phillida graduated from Jesus with a degree in history in 2008 and became the first intern to work at the Cambridge-based Humanitarian Centre – a network of organisations based in and around the city. This enabled her to gain a position with the Christian international relief and development organisation World Vision. She is currently working as an Emergency Officer in Haiti.

Phillida says: "It's hard to appreciate the scale of the disaster in Haiti. My role is to support the urgent efforts being made to ensure that people get back to some semblance of normality as soon as possible. Longer term, recovery from the damage caused to the country and its people will take much longer and will require huge sensitivity to local needs. I have seen that international development is about empowerment, not just service provision."



PHILIP WYNOTT

Some 20 million fruit flies reside in laboratories across Cambridge

High-flying research

Since it first made its way into the laboratory a century ago, the fruit fly has helped transform biological research. Today, Cambridge is home to the greatest concentration of fly researchers in the world, and what they are discovering using this tiny insect is astonishing

1908. IT WAS THE year bank robbers Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid met their deaths in Bolivia, Baden-Powell set up the Boy Scout movement and the first Model T rolled off Henry Ford's production line in Detroit, Michigan.

Less well known, except among a close-knit community of scientists known affectionately as fly-pushers, is that 1908 also saw the introduction into the laboratory of a humble creature that over the past 100 years has become one of biology's most powerful tools.

Commonly called the fruit fly, *Drosophila*

melanogaster is a small, brownish, two-winged fly with bright red eyes. Attracted to fermenting substances, most drinkers will recognise *Drosophila* as the creature that determinedly tries to drown itself in a glass of wine on a summer afternoon.

Scientists were attracted to *Drosophila* for other reasons. According to Professor Michael Ashburner of the Department of Genetics, who has worked with flies since the 1960s: "They are a good laboratory pet: very resistant to disease and easy to grow. They're cheap, lay lots of eggs, each have a short generation time and, at 3mm long,



Thousands of students have *Drosophila* to thank for their PhDs

they don't take up much space."

So economical are they that John Roote, who runs the Department of Genetics Fly Lab, reckons some 20 million *Drosophila* now reside in laboratories across the University. As well as being cheap and easy to raise, their chromosomes made them one of genetics most successful model species."

He says: "They have simple chromosomes – that was what first attracted scientists to them. They have just four pairs and they possess what's known as polytene chromosomes – giant chromosomes in the salivary glands that have a very reproducible banding pattern and are easy to observe."

Advances in genetics

Drosophila and advances in genetics have gone hand in hand since 1910, when Thomas Hunt Morgan at Columbia University discovered a white-eyed mutation. By crossing white and red-eyed flies, Morgan's team discovered the white eye was sex-linked – passed between generations of flies on the X chromosome and proof of the chromosome theory of heredity.

Says Professor Ashburner: "Morgan accumulated a group of brilliant young researchers who, over the next ten years, laid the foundations of classical genetics. Before Morgan, the leading place for genetics worldwide was Cambridge, where researchers used a huge variety of organisms, from stud horses in Newmarket to chickens and plants, but their work lacked depth."

During the decades that followed, discoveries made in *Drosophila* – and tools developed thanks to the fly – came thick and fast.

Drosophila, whose genome was sequenced in 2000, became the test-bed for rapid sequencing so that this technology could be used to sequence the human genome.

The fly was also there for the start of genetic engineering. "*Drosophila*, although not alone, was certainly instrumental in introducing foreign genes into an organism. In my working life that's been their major contribution to science," says Roote.

Thousands of postgraduate students have *Drosophila* to thank for their PhDs, and the fly netted several researchers – most notably Morgan in 1933, and Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard, Eric Wieschaus and Edward Lewis in 1995 – a Nobel Prize.

Outside genetics, *Drosophila* has been equally influential, helping biologists such as Professor Pat Simpson in the Department of Zoology to understand how genes regulate development.

"When I started work 45 years ago, the fly had only really been used for Mendelian genetics and heredity, but several groups working on developmental biology thought *Drosophila* might be the one organism where we could try to understand how genes regulate animal development," she says.

What she and other developmental biologists discovered were the amazing similarities between fly and human: similarities that researchers at Cambridge are now exploiting to extraordinary effect.

In research that sounds more science fiction than science fact, Dr Damian Crowther in the Department of Genetics has created a fly model of Alzheimer's disease. Thanks to a century's work into its genes and their role in development, *Drosophila* is now poised to help doctors understand what causes major human diseases and find potential new treatments.

"What's so striking is the enormous similarity at the genetic level between humans and flies," says Dr Crowther.

"Flies have 14,000 genes, while humans have around 20,000, but if you look at disease-causing genes in humans, you find 70 per cent have an orthologue, or equivalent, in the fly. We're using the brain of the fly as a system to model the human brain. Although the fly's brain is much smaller than a human's, the basic building blocks – the neurones – are very similar in structure."

Over the past ten years, researchers have found that a small protein, known as the amyloid- β (A β) peptide, builds up in the brains of patients with Alzheimer's, causing neurone death and dementia. Despite identifying A β as a molecular culprit, developing drugs to prevent its production has been dogged with unpleasant side-effects, meaning alternative drug targets must be found.

Using genetic engineering techniques

themselves partly developed in the fly, Dr Crowther has introduced a piece of human DNA that codes for the A β peptide into flies. After careful crossing, the flies produce the toxic peptide in their brains and begin to suffer problems that resemble Alzheimer's in humans.

Quite how you tell if a 3mm-long fruit fly has a poor memory or unsteady gait is mind-boggling, except to Dr Crowther. In the same way Pavlov conditioned his dog to dribble on hearing a bell, flies can be trained to move towards different odours in a maze. They are trained to avoid one odour because it is associated with an electric shock, but flies with Alzheimer's can't learn to avoid because they cannot remember.

Training flies is labour intensive, so Dr Crowther prefers to examine how they walk to detect changes in their brains. "We take a glass tube of flies and use two mirrors and a camera to reconstruct in 3D how they move up the tube," she says.

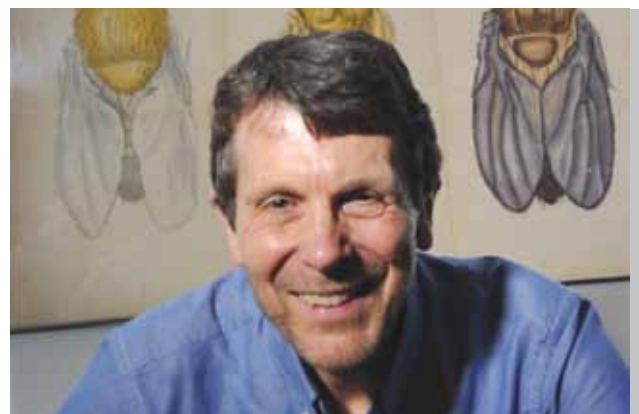
"Movement requires flies to be able to see and smell and walk – it's a nice measure of overall brain activity – so we can use changes in the way they move to detect early signs of brain deterioration."

Dr Crowther is using what he describes as "a test tube on legs" to get a greater understanding both of the disease process and how to interfere with it to stop Alzheimer's progressing. "If we can interrupt that process in the fly, it's very likely this will help us interrupt the process in a human brain."

His approach has already yielded promising leads. Working with the Department of Chemistry and Department of Medicine, Dr Crowther has found that iron seems to play a part in the disease process, and that binding the iron protects the flies from Alzheimer's. "That gives us the ability to develop drugs to take the iron out of the human brain," he says.

Something to ponder, perhaps, next time you pick fruit flies out of your glass of wine.

John Roote runs the Department of Genetics Fly Laboratory. "There is enormous similarity at the genetic level between flies and humans," he says



Man on a mission

Peter Hayler’s work as an industrial chaplain has seen him pack Jammie Dodgers on a factory floor and organise community events on the Cambridge Science Park. Now, as the new Chaplain to University staff, he has his sights set on forging partnerships between all faiths and none

HOW SHOULD a museum respond if a member of the public wants to worship in front of an exhibit? Does an employer have a legal duty of care to an occultist? And if a significant number of Cambridge staff consider themselves Jedi (after the all-powerful freedom fighters in the *Star Wars* films, and, after the 2001 census,

momentarily declared the fourth largest religion in England and Wales), should the University provide them with a dedicated area to harness the force?

These may seem far-fetched scenarios but, for Peter Hayler, Associate Vicar at Great St Mary’s Church and Chaplain to University

staff, they are real concerns. His role has a formal link with the Equality and Diversity section and, with future legislation likely to expand on duties required of public bodies in respect of religion and belief, he says sooner or later the University will need to work with these kinds of issues.

“The work of chaplains can only

go at a certain speed, but what we should be doing is driven by equality law. Cambridge is default Anglican, but present reality says the whole world is here,” he says.

So how should the University respond? In the first instance, says Peter, it is important to build up an understanding of, and provision



Much of Peter Hayler’s work involves meeting people and forging partnerships

PHILIP MYNOTT



Peter's work is informed by a determination to "step over the threshold of the Church"

for, different faith communities. Much of his work involves meeting people and forging partnerships across both religious and non-religious communities. The weekly get-togethers held by the Newcomers and Visiting Scholars are a good place to introduce himself and try to make these connections. For instance, if he bumps into someone from Denmark, he will ask whether the person is aware of the Lutheran Church on Westfield Lane – Evangelical Lutheranism being the dominant religion of Denmark.

Roving brief

Peter's work is informed by a personal and professional mission to "step over the threshold of the Church" and engage with all faiths and none. His roving brief takes him to college chapels, carol services, coffee mornings and University departments and institutions.

He makes a point of attending the Merton Hall Farmhouse at the West Cambridge site, now used as a multi-faith centre for the University. Here, as in much of his work, it is important that he understands not only the needs of people from different faiths, but also to appreciate the cultural and religious contexts of those needs.

He reaches for an example. One of the rooms at Merton Hall is used daily by Muslims for prayer. However, the topology of the room was such that people entering it crossed the line of sight of those praying,

so an alternative room has been designated.

Working within the community is something that matters to him deeply, and something that has guided him in previous appointments. He trained as an evangelist but soon "got a bee in my bonnet", as he puts it, about industrial mission.

"Cambridge is default Anglican, but present reality tells us that the whole world is here"

Thus began the first of a number of industrial chaplaincy appointments. He worked at the Cambridge Science Park from 1992 to 1995,

before moving to Cwmbran in south Wales, where he was chaplain to Burton's Biscuits.

Here he joined workers on the shop floor packing Wagon Wheels and Jammie Dodgers. Next, in 2003, came an appointment as Team Vicar in Magor, just over the Severn Bridge, which he held until 2009 when he came to the University.

He describes Cambridge as a "complex democracy", and talks enthusiastically about the various religious and non-religious traditions that exist within the colleges – the Roman Catholic heritage of St Edmund's, the interdenominational chapel at Robinson, the proudly scientific tradition at Christ's, and those colleges with neither chapel nor chaplain.

These, as far as Peter is concerned, are all opportunities. "There is a real sense of goodwill here, and tremendous potential for connecting with people for good."



FIND OUT MORE

There are a number of chaplaincies at the University. Here are their details:

→ **Peter Hayler, Associate Vicar and Chaplain to University Staff, Great St Mary's Church, pictured.**

chaplain@gsm.cam.ac.uk, www.gsm.cam.ac.uk

→ **Muslim chaplaincy**
jmbutt@hotmail.com and tjw31@cam.ac.uk, www.isoc.co.uk.

The focal point for Muslim students and staff at the University, as well as for many Muslims living and working in and around Cambridge.

→ **Jewish chaplaincy**
r1324@cam.ac.uk and sm823@cam.ac.uk, www.cuchabad.org and www.cujs.org.

The Cambridge University Chabad Jewish Society is a blend of students who enjoy good food, drink and company. Cambridge University Jewish Society runs a range of activities and events.

→ **Hindu chaplaincy**
chaplainvick@gmail.com, www.cuhcs.org.uk/welfare.
chaplain.php. A thriving society where members can meet new people and



learn about the heritage and culture of Hinduism.

→ **Catholic chaplaincy**
chaplain@fisherhouse.org.uk, www.srcf.ucam.org/fisherhouse.

The Fisher Society, which is run by students, provides a number of essential facilities including a kitchen, library and bar. Membership is free.

→ **Methodist chaplaincy**
minister@wesleycam.org.uk, www.wesleycam.org.uk. Wesley Methodist Church is in the heart of the city and draws members from the University and Anglia Ruskin.

→ **The Cambridge Theological Federation**
<http://www.theofed.cam.ac.uk/index.html>. Brings together the teaching and learning of seven institutes, through which people of different churches can train for various forms of Christian ministry and service.

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RETIREMENT



Professor Donald Broom has retired as Colleen Macleod Professor of Animal Welfare. At a recent gathering in Cambridge to celebrate his contribution to the scientific discipline of animal welfare, research collaborators and colleagues celebrated his many achievements, including his research into the welfare of animals during housing and transport, and on animal sentience and facilitating new legislation to protect animals. A past President of St Catharine's College, Professor Broom has also written many books and articles on ethology, animal welfare and evolution, and has advised numerous European political bodies on animal welfare science matters.

APPOINTMENTS



Dame Sandra Dawson, KPMG Professor of Management at the Cambridge Judge Business School, has been appointed a non-executive director of the Financial Services Authority. She will take up her post on 1 May, along with Amanda Davidson, director of independent financial adviser Baigrie Davies, whose appointment was also announced. Adair Turner, Chairman of the FSA, said: "I am very pleased to welcome Sandra and Amanda to the FSA board. Sandra's great experience of the academic world and public service, and Amanda's strong background, will bring a vital dimension to the board's work."



Professor Richard J Evans has been elected to succeed Dr Gordon Johnson as President of Wolfson. Professor Evans, who will take up the post in October this year, is Regius Professor of Modern History, Chairman of the Faculty of History and a Fellow of Gonville and Caius.

Dr Johnson said: "I am delighted the college has elected such a distinguished historian to be President of Wolfson. His election will reinforce the college's standing as a vibrant international community of graduate and mature undergraduate students, and Professor Evans brings to us wide experience of higher education in the UK."

Professor Evans said: "I am very grateful to the Fellows for electing me President of Wolfson. It is a unique institution that prides itself on its cosmopolitan, egalitarian and informal character, and I look forward to leading it over the next few years."



Howard Chase, Professor of Biochemical Engineering at the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, has been appointed Head of the School of Technology. Formally the Head of the School of Technology is the Chairman of the Council of the School and the principal academic officer.

In his role, Professor Chase is responsible to the Council of the School, the General Board and the Vice-Chancellor for the overall running of the School. The institutions within the School are the Department of Engineering, the Computer Laboratory, the Judge Business School, the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, and the Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership.

Professor Chase said: "I intend to ensure the University provides the necessary resources to enable our institutions to retain their world-class reputations in their individual fields."

OBITUARY

Dr John Matthewman, a Fellow of St John's and formerly college lecturer and University lecturer in Engineering, died at the Arthur Rank Hospice in Cambridge on 27 January. Dr Matthewman joined the Department of Engineering as a Senior Research Assistant in 1964, and his appointment was one of the first in information technology. He commissioned the department's first-time sharing computer system, going on to become a lecturer in the department, teaching mathematics, computing and surveying. He was Head of the Surveying Group from 1988 to 1998, when he retired from the department.



Memorial service

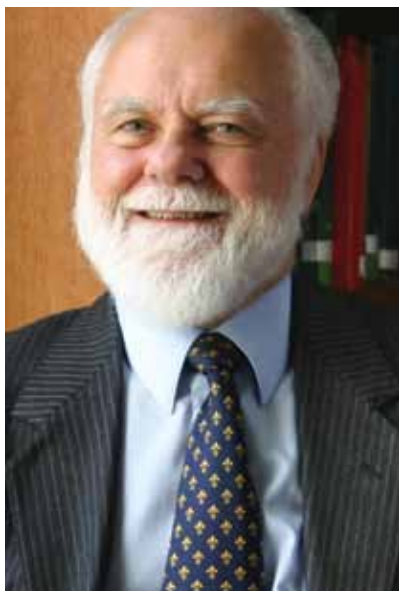
Dr Shaun Wylie, 1913-2009

A memorial service for Dr Shaun Wylie, mathematician, Bletchley Park code-breaker, Fellow (1939-1958) and later Honorary Fellow of Trinity Hall, will be held in the Chapel of Trinity Hall, on Saturday, 24 April 2010 at 2.30 pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Master's Lodge.

Those wishing to attend should notify Anna Walford, Master's Office, Trinity Hall, Cambridge, CB2 1TJ. Phone (01223) 332540 or email aw235@cam.ac.uk. See Trinity Hall website for more details.

PRIZES, AWARDS AND HONOURS

Outstanding contribution to astronomy



Professor Douglas Gough

Three Cambridge academics have been honoured for their outstanding contribution to astronomy by the Royal Astronomical Society.

Professor Douglas Gough, Leverhulme Emeritus Fellow, formerly Professor of Theoretical Astrophysics and Director of the Institute of Astronomy, has been awarded the society's highest honour: the Gold Medal for Astronomy. Professor Gough said: "As is the case in so much of modern astrophysics, my scientific contributions are not the result of mere solitary activity, but are the outcome of collaboration with other astrophysicists and astronomers. I thank the many colleagues, now friends, with whom I have had the pleasure of working over the decades."

Dr Craig Mackay, Professor of Image Science in the Institute of Astronomy, has been awarded the Jackson-Gwilt Medal for his long-term work on astronomical instrumentation. He has previously worked on a variety of visible and infrared detector systems, including one of the main instruments on the Hubble Space Telescope. He said: "This award is at least in part recognition of the contribution of British instrument builders to the development of charge coupled device detectors. It is an excellent example of the way government investment in astronomy has contributed to British industrial competitiveness."

Dr Barbara Ercolano, Visiting Researcher at the Institute of Astronomy, has been awarded the Fowler Prize for astronomy for her work and development on the MOCASSIN code, one of the most important astrophysical tools to have been created during the past decade. Dr Ercolano held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute of Astronomy until April 2009, but has sustained an ongoing scientific collaboration with the institute. She said: "I am absolutely delighted to receive this award. I am extremely grateful to my colleagues at UCL, Harvard, the University of Cambridge and elsewhere who have helped, inspired and supported this work over the years."

Other awards

→ **Professor Athene Donald**, Deputy Head of the Department of Physics and Director of the University of Cambridge Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Initiative has won the Science and Technology award issued by *Glamour* magazine. Her recent work includes the exploration of generic factors that may underlie neurodegenerative diseases such as CJD and Alzheimer's.

→ **Professor Austin Smith**, Director of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Stem Cell Research, has won this year's Louis-Jeantet Prize for Medicine for his pivotal role in stem cell research. "What my lab is interested in, and what has been our particular contribution to the field, is understanding how these cells are controlled and what makes them pluripotent," he said. While other research groups work on stem cells' clinical applications, Professor Smith's focus is on deepening our understanding of the basic biology of these cells.

→ **Graham Farmelo**, Archive By-Fellow at Churchill, won the Costa Biography Award for his book *The Strangest Man: the Hidden Life of Paul Dirac*. The book, based on previously undiscovered papers, celebrates Dirac's scientific achievements while drawing a compassionate portrait of his life and the people around him. He was a pioneer of quantum mechanics, correctly predicted the existence of antimatter and won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1932, when he was the youngest theoretician to win the prize.

→ **Professor Sir David Baulcombe**, Regius Professor of Botany, whose work underpins much of our knowledge of gene silencing, has won both this year's Wolf Foundation Prize in Agriculture



Dr Craig Mackay



Professor Athene Donald



Professor Austin Smith

and the Harvey Prize. The awards are for work carried out during the 1990s by Professor Baulcombe, who was then at the Sainsbury Laboratory in Norwich. He and his group discovered that fragments of genetic material known as RNA play a crucial role in regulating genes.

→ **Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas** has been invited to deliver the Hassel Lectures at the University of Oslo in May. He will also give the Sven Berggren Prize Lecture to the Royal Lund Academy of Science and Technology, Sweden.

→ **Dr Bill Byrne, Dr Adrià de Gispert, Graeme Blackwood and Jamie Brunning** from the Department of Engineering, and **Gonzalo Iglesias** from the University of Vigo, Spain have won the Human Language Translation Technology competition. The team ranked top for its Arabic-to-English translation system. The competition, run by the US National Institute of Standards, is part of an ongoing series of evaluations of human language translation technology.

→ The University has announced the winner of one of its oldest and most prestigious prizes. The Adams Prize is awarded jointly each year by the Faculty of Mathematics and St John's to a young UK-based researcher doing first-class international research in the Mathematical Sciences. This year's topic was Fluid Mechanics. The prize was awarded to **Professor Vanneste** of the School of Mathematics at the University.

Student awards

→ **Gareth Keeves**, a final-year Manufacturing Engineering student, has been awarded the highest mark worldwide for the Diploma in Financial Management. He beat hundreds of fellow scholars across the world in the prestigious examination. The diploma, run by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, is aimed at middle or senior managers in non-accounting roles and gives them a working understanding of finance and the ability to work confidently with financial information.

→ **Chris Bryan, Emma Dabbs and Eesa Mohammed** have been awarded the 2009/10 Parmee Prize for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise. Their team MobileMS won the prize for their polished presentation on their chosen project. They intend to produce a mobility aid for people with multiple sclerosis.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertising on this page is open to University staff. The cost is £15 for a single insertion or £75 for six insertions. The deadline for the June/July issue is 28 April. Send your copy – no longer than 70 words – to the Editor at newsletter@admin.cam.ac.uk or call 32300. We reserve the right to edit contributions.

HOUSES TO RENT (UK)

→ North Yorkshire Moors

Low Mill, Farndale, with sitting room, dining rooms, playroom, kitchen, four bedrooms, two bathrooms and garden with lovely views. Sleeps seven, all mod cons. Fabulous walks in all directions. Near Rievaulx, Castle Howard, Runswick Bay. £370 a week. Contact Horace or Miranda Barlow on 01223 366618/333867 or email hbb10@cam.ac.uk.

→ North Yorkshire Coast

Comfortable, well-appointed Georgian house available for holiday lets in Robin Hood's Bay. Garden, sea views, central heating and private parking. Sleeps at least nine, special rates for couples and small parties. Fully equipped kitchen, dining room, large, comfortable sitting room on ground floor, three bedrooms (one with en-suite), family bathroom and further sitting room on first floor, two further bedrooms and bathroom on second floor. Contact Val

Everton on 01904 656401 07592 590727, or email tce20@cam.ac.uk.

→ Cornwall

Traditional granite cottage in peaceful countryside between St Ives and Penzance. Sleeps five in three bedrooms, with comfortable sitting room, kitchen-breakfast room and bathroom. Sunny garden and off-road parking. Close to beaches and coves, coastal path, sub-tropical gardens, historic properties. Details and photos at www.tinminerscottage.co.uk. Contact Penny Barton: pb29@cam.ac.uk or 01638 507192.

→ Arran, Scotland

Holiday let on the Isle of Arran with easy links from Glasgow. Available all-year round. Recently refurbished four-bed house on seafront with views of the Holy Isle, sleeps six. Cycle routes and forestry tracks a short walk from the house, with mountaineering, horse riding and sailing available on the island. Contact km511@medschl.cam.ac.uk. Details at <http://www.cottages-and-castles.co.uk/>

property/view/accommodation-cottages-lamlash-marine-villa-ar058.html

→ Perth, Scotland

Scandinavian-style four-bedroomed house in quiet area of Perth available for holiday lets. Beautiful secluded garden, safe for dogs and children. Sleeps up to seven with lounge/dining room (TV, video, DVD), two bathrooms with showers, one double bedroom downstairs, large conservatory. Beautiful forestry one mile away, Scone Palace nearby. £350-£550 a week. Contact mornaknottenbelt@hotmail.com

→ Butley, Suffolk

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 eight. More information at www.butleycottage.co.uk. Contact Miranda on 01223 357035 or info@butleycottage.co.uk

HOUSES TO RENT (OVERSEAS)

→ Provence, France

Large, comfortable flat in famous 'Côte Bleue' resort of Carry-le-Rouet close to the Camargue and Marseilles. Seafront, beach and coves within 100 metres. Excellent for swimming, snorkelling, scuba diving, sailing, walking and cycling. Close to all Provencal places of interest. Twenty minutes from Marseilles airport and 30 minutes from Marseilles TGV station. Sleeps six comfortably. Private parking. WIFI network. Email Anita Ogier at ao10001@cam.ac.uk

→ Cevennes, France

Mediterranean climate, dramatic mountain scenery, superb walking/river-swimming. Roman Provence/Rhone and Languedoc vineyards. Two spacious, refurbished, entirely independent apartments with central heating and covered terraces near Mont Lozere. Sleeping eight and up to six respectively. Shady gardens, boudoir, barbecue, quiet hamlet, near shops and markets. Available separately but particularly suitable for groups holidaying together. From £280 per week. Easy access via trains and budget airlines. For further details phone 01527 541360.

→ Andalusia, Spain

Gorgeous country house near national park with stunning views. Sleeps eight (plus cot) in four double rooms. All comforts including internet, large pool, large terraces, underfloor heating and wood burning stove. Guided walking and biking available, Malaga airport one hour away. From £500 a week. Short breaks available. www.casalouisa.net.

→ Amalfi coast, Italy

Small bed and breakfast in peaceful, traffic-free mountain village above Positano. All rooms are ensuite with panoramic sea views of the Amalfi coast. Good base for walks in all directions. English speaking host. Double room and breakfast 50 euros per night. easyJet flights to Naples from Stansted. Photos and further information available. Contact: Penny Marrone on 01954 210681 or email Penny.Marrone@btinternet.com

→ Tuscany, Italy

18th-century farmhouse with east-facing studio available September to May. Restored to high standard, with writers, artists and academics in mind. Central heating, mod cons and broadband. Beautiful location above small hamlet ten miles from Lucca. Sleeps five. Long-term rent discounts. Details and photographs available. Contact jmg47@cam.ac.uk

→ Rome, Italy

One-bedroom luxury flat available for short rentals. A/c, cable television, fully networked, vast terrace. £400 per week all inclusive. Further info available on request. Contact Cristiano Ristuccia car37@cam.ac.uk

→ Lagos, Portugal

Individual, superb four bedroom/ four bathroom villa with pool set amongst the tree-lined links of the western Algarve's premier golf and leisure resort Parque da Floresta. Near Costa Vicentina Nature Reserve, historic port of Lagos, pristine beaches and quaint fishing villages. Luxury accommodation sleeps eight to ten. Contact Graham (gb313@admin.cam.ac.uk) or Lyn (lb334@medschl.cam.ac.uk)

→ Algarve, Portugal

Spacious, family owned apartment sleeping up to five in idyllic village. Private patio and roof terrace with shared pools. Picturesque beach five minute's walk. Restaurants within village. Tennis, golf, water parks and shopping close by. Faro airport 45 minutes. Stunning and quiet location. Short and long breaks available. Visit www.holiday-home-rentals.co.uk property 4995. Email Helen.floto@gmail.com or phone 01954 267291

HOUSE FOR SALE (OVERSEAS)

→ Sao Joao da Ribeira, Portugal

Superb villa in quiet village built in 2004. Thirty-minute drive to Obidos, 40 minutes to the coast, one hour to Lisbon. Four rooms, two bathrooms, huge living room, vast terraces, large grounds and two-car garage. Local interests include Rio Maior salt mines, Serra de Montejunto protected landscape, Cartaxo's Cultural Centre. Email Andre at a.neves@bioc.cam.ac.uk for more information.

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PATHWAY TO UNIVERSITY

Click to the script

A remarkable set of college manuscripts that open a window onto everyday life in England hundreds of years ago is being made available for the first time via the web

IT'S EASY TO forget, in the era of instant communication, that there was a time when getting information from one place to another was difficult, and passing it down through the generations seemed next to impossible.

Hundreds of years ago, things that we now take for granted on the shelves of any bookshop, such as recipes, poems, jokes and stories, were usually carried from one generation to the next by word of mouth. It was a method limited by the sort of imprecision that you would expect from a game of Chinese Whispers. But if you could write, and you really wanted to save some essential anecdote for posterity, there was a more accurate way. We know this because the evidence lies in a number of Cambridge college libraries.

King's, St John's, Emmanuel, Queens' and Trinity are all the owners of one or more remarkable antique manuscripts known as "miscellanies", some of which date back as far as the Wars of the Roses in the mid-15th century. Likened by some academics to Filofaxes, these books were used to record snippets of information that people had read, been told, or overheard at a time when paper was expensive and scarce.

They open a window onto the experiences, hopes, fears and interests of people who lived during the 15th to 18th centuries, and whose voices may otherwise have gone unrecorded. Over a period of decades, their owners kept poems by Shakespeare and Milton, plague remedies, laundry lists or, in one case, details of the contents of their fish pond.

Realising how important, but also how little-studied they are, a research group called the Scriptorium Project from the University's English Faculty has just released thousands of pages from 20 of these handwritten miscellanies online, where the contents can be browsed for free.

The collection features all of the college manuscripts. The oldest comes from Trinity and dates back to the reign of Henry VI.

At the other end of the spectrum, one of the King's manuscripts is also the youngest – a humble 300-year-old document from 1710. This opens with extracts from a later



FELIX BENNETT

edition of a grammar by Edward Leedes, headmaster of Edward VI's School at Bury St Edmunds and originally published in 1676. It begins with seven preparatory exercises that instruct the scholar on subjects such as "laziness", "drunkenness" and "covetousness".

"The cost of paper in the early modern era meant it was quite normal for books to be re-used," Dr Angus Vine, one of the Scriptorium Project team, explains. "That makes miscellanies fascinating to interpret. We have examples where what started out as a collection of poetry, for instance, was being used some time later for laundry lists."

Many of the miscellanies are too fragile to be read by hand, making the digitisation project all the more important. For the first time, these documents are being made accessible to people anywhere in the world.



FIND OUT MORE

→ Visit the Scriptorium Project at <http://scriptorium.english.cam.ac.uk/>

At the same time, the Scriptorium Project is also preserving them for future generations.

The website features browsable and searchable digital facsimiles of each manuscript, with accompanying descriptions, transcriptions, bibliographies and critical essays. Users can scan 15th-century carols from St John's, snippets from German, Italian and Irish sources in an Emmanuel College manuscript from the 17th and, perhaps most remarkably of all, what are believed to be school exercises written by Edward VI and owned by Trinity.

"Traditionally miscellanies of this sort have been treated as ephemera, but in fact they give us a fascinating view of early modern life," Vine adds. "Hopefully, this site will open up a whole new side of the period's culture for people to enjoy."

The Fitz: one hundred years of giving



This panel of ten tiles, left, was the first purchase made with support from the Friends of the Fitzwilliam. Right: a detail from the Macclesfield Psalter, an acquisition assisted by the Friends



THE FRIENDS OF THE Fitzwilliam – the UK's first museum support organisation, established in 1909 – has recently celebrated its centenary. To mark the occasion, they presented a centenary gift to the Fitzwilliam Museum: two woodblock carvings by British sculptor, stone-cutter and printmaker Eric Gill.

Friends' subscriptions provide the museum with funds to use towards the purchase of works of art, and every department in the Fitzwilliam has benefited from the group's support. From the first purchase – a panel of 17th century Islamic tiles – to more recent acquisitions, such as etchings by Picasso, or the Macclesfield Psalter, Friends' support has helped the museum develop the world-class collections visitors see today.

An online exhibition showcasing a selection of the objects acquired since 1909 with the Friends' assistance has also been launched (see 'Find out more' box). Its four sections correspond to the main phases of the museum's development under successive directors. Viewers can see how these objects reflected the taste and predilections of individual directors and their staff, as well as their objectives for the museum and its collections as a whole.

There are more than 2,000 Friends,

many of whom live in Cambridge. They enjoy exclusive lectures and events at the museum, as well as visits to see treasures in the colleges and special social events.

Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum Timothy Potts said: "The Fitzwilliam has had unprecedented success over the past two years, capped off by our exhibition *Endless Forms*, on Darwin's impact on the visual arts, being voted international exhibition of the year by *Apollo* magazine and the *Daily Telegraph*."

"Support from our Friends association and other individuals is a critical part of our funding mix, and we are especially keen to encourage bequests as a central element in assuring the museum's longer term stability."



FIND OUT MORE

→ 'A Century of Giving', an online exhibition highlighting the Friends' contribution to the Fitzwilliam's collections, can be viewed at <http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/gallery/friends/>

→ For more information, and to become a Friend of the Fitzwilliam Museum, email fitzmuseum-friends@lists.cam.ac.uk

A decade of success

THE NOUGHTIES were a decade of unprecedented growth for the Fitzwilliam, characterised by extended and enhanced access to the museum, its world-class collections and exhibitions, and ever-growing public engagement, accompanied by a wide range of activities and events for all ages.

The recognition of the national importance of the collections by Designation in 1997 was followed by the Courtyard Development (2002-2004), funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Paul Mellon and others, and significant investment by grants from the Museum, Libraries and Archives Council from their Designation Challenge and Renaissance in the Regions programmes.

Together these have led to visitor numbers increasing from 254,000 (1999) to 360,000 (2009), the creation of a significant online resource engaging a virtual audience of more than one million users a year, and the launch of an exhibition programme of international standing.

More recently, *Endless Forms*, which explored the impact of Charles Darwin's theories on the artists of the late-19th century, was one of the museum's most successful exhibitions ever, attracting some 90,000 visitors.



The Fitzwilliam's *Endless Forms* exhibition last year was one of its most successful ever

Honorary Degree Congregation

STAFF ARE REMINDED that the Honorary Degree Congregation will take place on Monday, 21 June. Those who are interested in applying for a ticket to attend should look for a notice in the *University Reporter*, due to be published on 21 April. The notice will give full details of the congregation, including the names of those receiving Honorary Doctorates, and the procedure for applying for a ticket.

→ For further information, visit <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/>