

# Selwyn

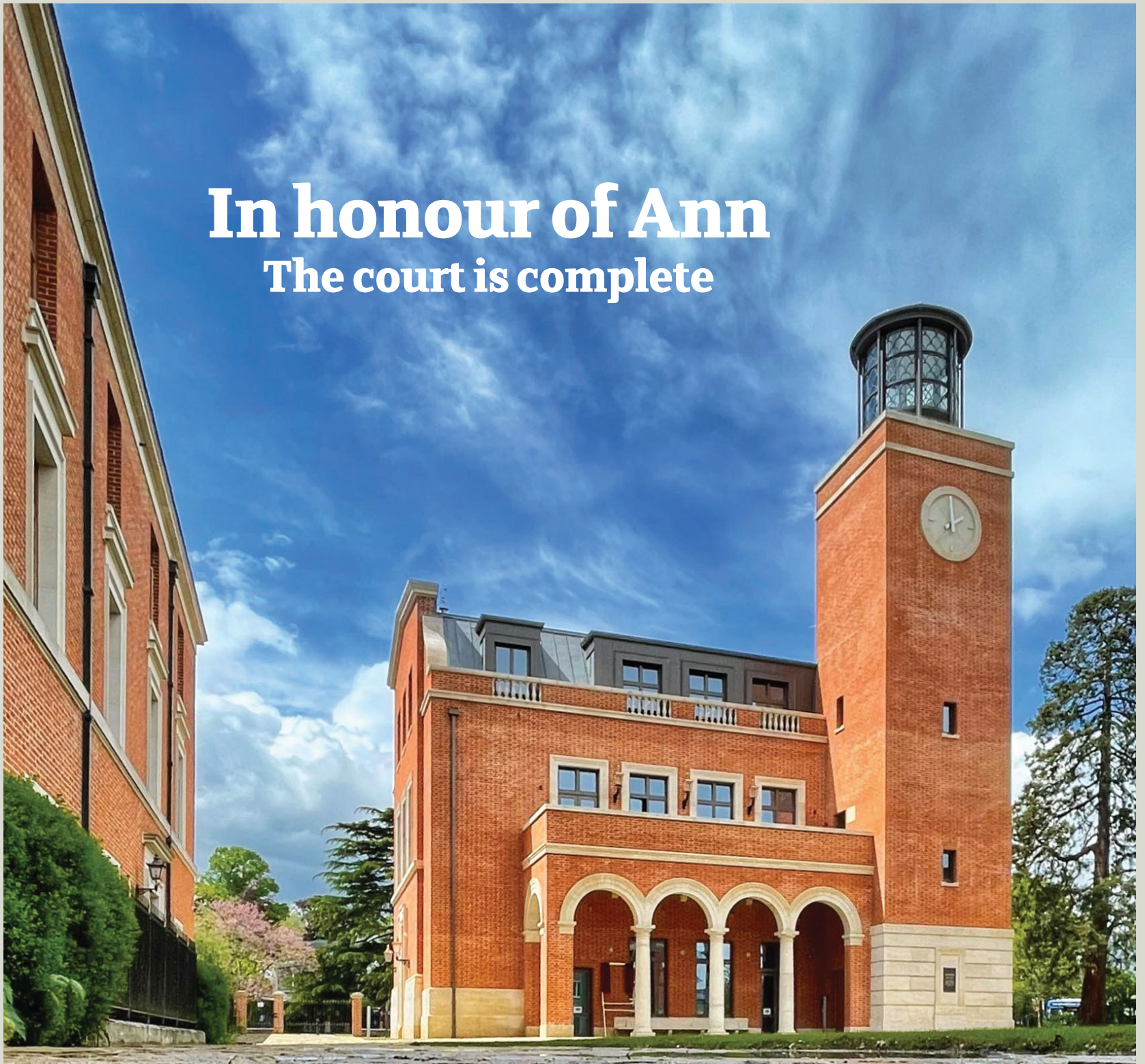
The magazine  
for alumni and friends  
of Selwyn College,  
Cambridge



# 2021

Issue 28 Summer 2021

## In honour of Ann The court is complete







Editorial

Our cover photograph offers proof that we got on with things at Selwyn despite the pandemic. It shows the magnificent new building that houses the Bartlam Library and the Quarry Whitehouse auditorium, and later in this magazine we share more of the pictures – as well as paying tribute to the man who made it all possible. Chris Dobson, the principal donor, named Ann’s Court in honour of his late wife; and he opened the completed court this Spring. He is seen (right) with his daughter Abigail. We’re also revealing plans for future developments. We want to convert the old library into a study centre; and we recently acquired a lovely house in Selwyn Gardens that will add to our graduate housing stock. The aim is to make it part of the most environmentally-friendly project we’ve ever undertaken.

Among the other highlights in these pages: for the first time there’s a Selwyn alumnus in one of the most prestigious roles in the UK – the presidency of the Royal Society. Sir Adrian Smith, a distinguished mathematician, has contributed a special piece on the most important subject of our times: how science can help us through the health emergency that paralysed the world. He notes that we shouldn’t rely on science for certainty, but he argues for investment in science that will benefit the whole of the country.

His contribution sits alongside accounts of how other Selwynites are making a difference. A year ago we featured on the cover our medic Dr Charlotte Summers, who was facing her biggest challenge as a respiratory disease and intensive care specialist. Now she explains what happened next. And within the college, the most indispensable member of staff last year was the nurse Carolyn Turner. She tells us about health care – and learning how to operate the washing machines.

We have plenty more about the human side of the college. We welcome in these pages two new honorary fellows – Professor David Dabydeen and Sir Clive Lewis – who both rose from tough backgrounds to leading roles in academia and the judiciary respectively. David tells us what it was like growing up in care and then arriving at Selwyn, and how his love of literature gave him new perspectives on his heritage. We also hear from an alumnus who is never far from the headline news: Chris Stewart, who works in anti-terrorism and has been involved in some of the distressing incidents that have caused loss of life. But he explains how he and his colleagues are determined to keep the country as safe as they can.

On the lighter side, the regular profiles of fellows this year take in a vet with a truly enormous number of animals; an architect who believes that the best buildings are like “frozen music”; and an academic who finds the *Blade Runner* films instructive in her study of war.



Chris Dobson and his daughter Abigail.

We also meet a new recruit with an interest in the Indian army. If any of this makes you want to be more creative and rush into print yourself, alumna Ann Morgan has some helpful tips on how to write – based on her fascinating reading challenge and a subsequent bestseller.

You will also find, as ever, some memories of Selwyn past. In this edition we mark the college’s connection with Prince Philip, the former chancellor of the university who died in April 2021. The photographs show a devotion to duty – one of his visits was late in the day and he planted a tree in the dark – and also glimpses of some of the well-known college faces of the past. We hope you enjoy the pages that follow. If you’ve an idea for future publications, do let us know; and we look forward to hearing more Selwyn stories that prove what a special place this is.

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The way to bounce back: invest in science

Sir Adrian Smith (SE 1965)  
President of the Royal Society



© University of London

The Royal Society is the world’s oldest national scientific academy. Founded in 1660, past presidents include Isaac Newton and Christopher Wren. Now, for the first time, the president is a Selwyn alumnus: the distinguished mathematician Sir Adrian Smith. He argues the case for continued investment in science that makes a difference to lives across the UK and the world, and that doesn’t leave poorer communities behind.

The past year has been extraordinarily challenging and science has been front and centre of many aspects of the pandemic and our responses to it. It was against that backdrop that I became President of the Royal Society, last November, just over 56 years since arriving at Selwyn to read mathematics.

The last year has proved beyond doubt the role of learned societies such as the Royal Society. Many of our Fellows and the people that we fund have been working on our understanding of Covid-19 and ways to fight it, whether with epidemiological modelling, treatments or vaccines. Some of those scientists have also played a crucial part in helping public understanding of the pandemic through our public events, and through media work. Our peer-reviewed journals have helped the sharing of information among scientists, feeding the spectacular level of international cooperation and collaboration. And we have also convened a number of expert groups to help provide the evidence and the assessment of that evidence that has been central to policy making.

All of these roles have been important but it is in the last area where the independence of the Royal Society has been and will remain most vital. Early on in the pandemic the government mantra was that they were ‘following the science’. The implication was that science had all the answers, but science is so often about uncertainty and that was never more true in dealing with a virus that many of us had never previously heard of.

In such situations, it is the job of independent scientists to ensure that the science is presented in an open manner and that all the uncertainty is clear. That is essential to supporting the government in making the tough decisions that they have had to take.

There are so many tragic stories from the past year but we can take some positives. The spectacular success in developing such a



Scientific advisers Professor Chris Whitty and Sir Patrick Vallance with the prime minister.

range of effective vaccines, at speed, has been a testament to the strength of the UK science base and international collaboration. We have also seen that in improvements in treatments and our ability to sequence genomes and identify variants.

None of this happened by accident – it has been the result of decades of investment in people, ideas and facilities. If the UK is going to build back better, continuing to build on that investment is essential, as will be an open and outward facing UK.

That building back better must also be for all the people of the UK. It cannot just be for the rich or for those in some parts of the country. Cambridge has provided a beacon for growth – the knowledge and innovation driven by the university has allowed the region to thrive and with great universities spread throughout the

UK, we can see that replicated, if we are willing to invest in and support those people, ideas and facilities.

I am lucky that, as a Fellow of the Royal Society and Selwyn College, I get to see that thriving ecosystem of ideas up close. Of course, I am not the first to have a foot in two such illustrious institutions. Fellows of the Society have been connected with Selwyn College at all points in their careers. I mention the shared Fellows because it is the Fellows that give the Royal Society its strength, the strength that I described earlier, that has served us well in the pandemic and will continue to serve us well in the future. It is their expertise that makes a national academy of science so important as a funder, as a source of reliable information for the public and as a source of independent advice for policy makers.

Selwyn’s Royal Society Fellows

Professor Sir Alan Cook  
FRS, Former Fellow & Master of Selwyn 1983-93.  
Alan Cook was a physicist who spent most of his career researching cosmology, gravity and the physics of the Earth.



Sir Peter Williams  
CBE FREng FRS, SE 1969, Honorary Fellow.  
Physicist and industry leader with an academic background in the study of semiconductor physics.



Professor Sir Alistair MacFarlane  
CBE FRS FRSE FEng, SE 1974, Honorary Fellow, Former Fellow and Vice-Master of Selwyn 1977-88.  
Professor of Electrical Engineering.



Sophie Wilson  
CBE FREng FRS, SE 1976, Honorary Fellow.  
A computer scientist who designed the architecture behind the Acorn Micro-Computer and co-designed the ARM microprocessor which today powers virtually every mobile phone and tablet in the world.



Professor Sir Colin Humphreys  
CBE FREng FRS, Emeritus Professor.  
A materials scientist who has carried out valuable work on the electron microscopy of semiconducting materials.



Professor Jeremy Sanders  
CBE FRS, Emeritus Professor and former Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Cambridge.  
Professor Sanders has developed innovative applications of NMR spectroscopy in organic and biological chemistry.





COVID-19 UPDATE:

# The fight against Coronavirus - what happened next...



A year ago in this magazine we featured on our cover Dr Charlotte Summers, a Selwyn medical fellow and also a specialist in intensive care and respiratory diseases. She told us then about the start of the battle against the coronavirus - "the very challenge I've been trained for" - and about the terrible consequences of infection for so many people around the world. But there was hope, too, that the National Health Service in Britain would prove its worth; and Charlotte and her team were already showing how the dedication of researchers and hospital staff and key workers would help us fight back against Covid-19.



This is a photographic record which illustrates what happened since then, courtesy of a Financial Times cameraman who followed Charlotte in her work at Addenbrooke's hospital. She also shares with us some of the thoughts prompted by the images.

There is no doubt that the past winter was much, much harder than the first months of the crisis. January 2021, in particular, is a time I would never want to experience again. At its peak, the NHS had close on 40,000 people in hospital being treated for Covid, with nearly 5,000 of them in intensive care. Here in Cambridge, we had 112 people in ICU - which is getting on for four times the capacity we had before this crisis started. It was the miserable depths of winter, with the new variants scything through the country and more patients than we could ever have imagined - and our staff were, frankly, exhausted. They had been through the first wave, and now things were worse than ever.

Of course, we got through it. We now know a lot more about effective treatments, and we have the hope provided by the vaccine. I'm personally grateful for the phenomenal response of so many people - including Selwyn medical students who volunteered to work in the hospital on top of their academic work. I was also buoyed by the kind words from college alumni and friends. After a particularly difficult day, a short message of appreciation could transform the mood. But I would say that we remain in uncertain times: we cannot be sure what the future will bring. I am hopeful, yet far from complacent.

Dr Charlotte Summers

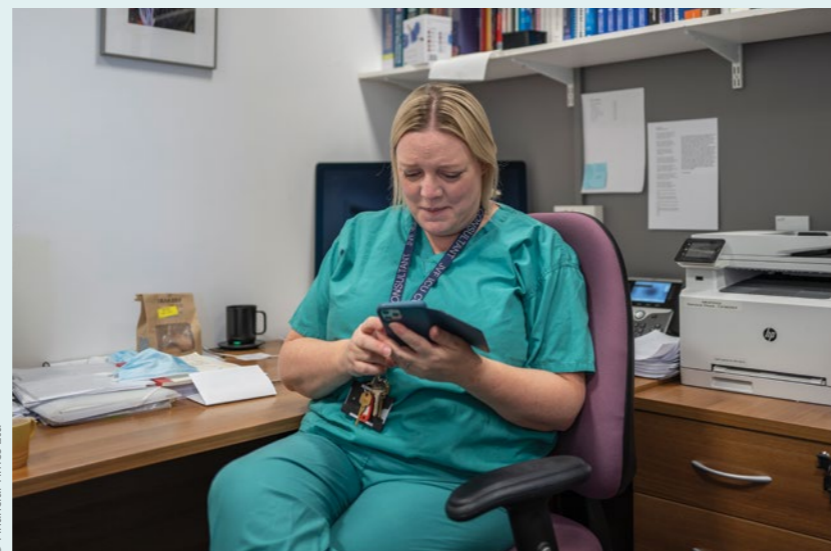
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Photography: Charlie Bibby  
Courtesy Financial Times Ltd.

"We had at least three briefings every day, as the various shifts handed over to each other. I never underestimated the strain on colleagues. Many of the nurses come from overseas, and they hadn't seen their own families for many months. So there is that burden of worry in addition to carrying out extremely stressful professional tasks."

"I've no idea how many hours I was working. Maybe an average of 60 a week, but I was on call morning, noon and night. This reflected both my job at Addenbrooke's and the role I was playing in the national fight against the coronavirus. I was also finding time to answer emails as Dean of Selwyn!"



© Financial Times Ltd



"I have never at any stage regretted the career path that brought me here: not for a single minute"

© Financial Times Ltd



"For all the pressures on the medical staff, we always remembered that individual patients were at the heart of what we were doing. Often, they were scared and alone. Personal attention mattered, even on the busiest of days."

© Financial Times Ltd



## COVID-19 UPDATE:

# Carolyn Taylor Putting health at the heart of Selwyn

The college nurse is a long-standing role at Selwyn and in Cambridge. But it has never been more important than in this pandemic. The college was extremely fortunate in that a major donation by Peter and Christina Dawson in 2019 started the funding of a year-round post, replacing the previous role that had been term time only. We have also, with further backing from the Dawsons, subsequently increased the nurse's hours to cope with the massively increased demand in the past 18 months. Here Carolyn Taylor tells her story.

I hail from Scotland, and I have been a nurse for many years within the NHS and Marie Curie hospices. My background lies heavily within palliative care, which is a passion. My husband works within the military, hence the reason I am working in England. I was a matron within the NHS Hertfordshire Trust and decided I needed a change. The role of nurse within Selwyn College became vacant; and I knew this would provide that change.

I started work with Selwyn in January 2020, just as Covid-19 was travelling the world. I had always had the might of the NHS behind me. Now I was in a room alone with a worldwide epidemic beginning.

This was uncharted waters for everybody. The threat it imposed on our workforce and students had to be met with a combination of experience, government guidance and common sense. My role as nurse saw me firstly planning, managing and advising on safety whilst providing care for our students and staff. Secondly, due to the closure of general practitioner medical centres and the constant referrals of patients to the nurses, I found my workload and hours expanding rapidly.

When I was working within the NHS, I had everything I needed and never thought about it. PPE implemented; rules churned out and adhered to. If I needed equipment I had it, or I procured it. Here, amid a chronic national

shortage of PPE, having equipment donated by alumni was humbling and never forgotten. We realised that procurement of PPE and any other equipment needed someone that could work under pressure, and deliver results. This task fell to

storeman Daniel Farkas and he met the challenges head on, which then again took pressure off myself.

Triaging patients became an everyday occurrence. My days started and ended with Covid. Phone calls came in at all hours with questions and fears. Parents' concerns over their children. Staff worries. This at times was extremely difficult, as we did not know all the answers at that time.

There was always work in the background making systems easier on a daily basis. One being the newly designated Covid-19 co-ordinator Chris Cowan, who found himself in the challenging position of overseeing the safe daily routine of the college. This removed a large amount of pressure from me which meant I could focus more on health related issues.

Whilst educating myself on Covid I was also still working with 'slips, trips, falls', and renewing medications and prescriptions. Non-Covid related issues needed to be dealt with daily and at times seven days a week. I was on first name terms with GPs in the area. The obvious effect of Covid and the lockdown were students returning home, which required the senior tutor Dr Mike Sewell to work with me on formatting and writing certificates for students enabling them to travel. There was no NHS support here – only Dr Sewell. I advised him "make it look pretty, Mike"; and he corrected my punctuation to perfection. I applaud you, sir.

This small staff of people left due to the furlough scheme within Selwyn came together



**"I may not have had the might of the NHS behind me, but I had Selwyn College. I was not alone. I was proud."**

as a cohesive unit, a small family. Meeting all these tasks were a fine team of staff: Matt Rowe (catering manager), Helen Stephens (head porter), Kevin Sargent (deputy head porter) and Sue Jeffries (domus manager). Wherever we walked we cleaned, wherever we ate we cleaned. I turned back into the young nurse I was many years ago: cleaning, scrubbing and disinfecting. I made many jaunts to students' rooms to assist in medical issues, or wash clothes due to isolation. I can now utilise all washing machines and tumble dryers within Selwyn with ease.

The planning and implementation within all areas was phenomenal and worked positively with amazing people. This put Selwyn enviably ahead of the game here. Returning staff came back to a newer, safer college. I may not have had the might of the NHS behind me, but I had Selwyn College. I was not alone. I was proud.

One incident will stay with me, which summed up the resilience of the human spirit. Two members of the catering team, Jesus and Javier were returning from one of their many trips to Cripps Court delivering meals to students who were isolating. They had been sharing a joke, which made them laugh so much that they had to sit on a wall to catch their breath. I passed them by and could hear their laughter all the way to my room. On a day when I was feeling sad and lonely at not having seen my children for months, I smiled.

We will come out of this. There will be an end and we will be better people for it.

# Tackling the threats to our safety

Right: Survivors of the Manchester bombing are helped by first responders.



**Chris Stewart (SE 2004) is a Detective Inspector within the National Digital Exploitation Service. A former natural sciences student at Selwyn, he explains how analytical thinking is needed in trying to stay one step ahead of the terrorists.**

I distinctly remember coming to the end of my time at Selwyn, having made some firm decisions – that I wanted to leave academic study and make it in the big wide world, and that I had no idea what to do. I was leaning toward the public sector, or something that wasn't about making money, but when the careers advisor asked if I had considered the Metropolitan Police Service I was surprised – I'd just got a NatSci degree from the best University in the world; why would I waste that by applying for a job that (at the time) needed a C in Maths and English at GCSE? A knowing wry smile from the advisor, and before I knew it I'd passed my entrance assessments and was lined up with the other new recruits at Hendon.

Despite my assumptions of policing as a working-class occupation, the majority of my class were fellow graduates, Army officers and analysts and I knew pretty soon that I'd made a good decision. I once naively said that I thought policing wasn't something you really needed a brain for – I've learnt that nothing could be further from the truth.

If you want to learn quickly in policing then Lambeth is a good place to start and two years in an emergency response team certainly opened my eyes to events I would never have otherwise seen. Despite the fast-paced excitement of the 'Hot-Fuzz' lifestyle, I was drawn early towards following in the footsteps of the world-renowned 'Detectives of Scotland Yard'.

I progressed as a Detective Constable in Brixton and my first shift saw me deployed with a scenes of crime officer to manage an attempted murder crime scene inside Brixton Prison – I wondered how so much responsibility could suddenly rest on my shoulders. Whilst Lambeth was a great place to work, I'd always had an interest in counter terrorism, so as soon as I got a chance to apply for SO15 Counter Terrorism Command I put in an application – I was 'young in service' on the first attempt but persistence pays off and at the second, I was given an interview and after a long vetting process, I started on an investigation team.

Counter Terrorism Policing in the UK is vast, with current annual funding rising towards

**"I was blue-lighting up the motorway to help with the investigation into the Manchester Arena bombing."**

£1 billion, but not without good reason. The scale of the challenge includes International Counter Terrorism, the radicalisation of young and vulnerable members of society, the rise of right-wing extremism and more complex national security risks. Within the first year on SO15 I found myself arresting a foreign terrorist fighter returning to the UK, and cracking how a Londoner was using encrypted communication apps to enable communications for a terrorist group in Syria. In 2017 I was in Westminster Abbey taking initial accounts from members of the House of Commons and House of Lords, following the terrorist attack at Westminster Bridge that led to the death of an MPS colleague Keith Palmer. A few weeks later I was blue-lighting up the motorway to help the North-West Counter Terrorism Unit deal

with the investigation into the Manchester Arena bombing. No one can say a career in Counter Terrorism Policing isn't interesting and varied.

One theme that I've taken with me throughout my policing career is the challenge

of technology. With rapid advances in technology, come huge challenges for policing – just to keep up with what is going on, to tackle new threats that didn't exist only months before, to train officers and staff, and to use legislation that was written in a time before mobile phones existed (let alone Cryptocurrencies, Virtual Private Networks and Social Media). Now a Detective Inspector within the National Digital Exploitation Service (NDES), I have first-hand knowledge of these challenges within Counter Terrorism Policing. Technology changes quickly, so we constantly try and stay ahead of things – we employ a varied mix of police officers and police staff and made technical knowledge and expertise as valued as the 'rank' someone is. We have to build partnerships with social media companies, industry and – more and more frequently – academia. We are all working together with the ultimate aim being to protect the public from terrorism. The challenges we face in the UK are shared by many international law-enforcement colleagues around the world, but also by frontline policing across the UK – I've ended up presenting in a grand-ballroom in New York city one week, but just as importantly a meeting room in Birmingham the next.

Every day I come to work there is a new problem to solve and new things to think about, and these are not just technical challenges – GDPR, ethics, ISO accreditation, disclosure, proportionality, legality, and cyber-security are just a few things to think about. It's a complex world to navigate, but incredibly rewarding and there is nothing more satisfying than knowing you have been part of a huge team that have prevented a terrorist attack that would have injured or killed innocent members of the public. Through my career so far I've met an amazing number of talented people from all walks of life, but it is always nice to bump into a fellow Cambridge alumnus at work or in the Government departments we work closely with. Scotland Yard will always have room for talented Selwynites, so feel free to get in touch if you think this might be something for you.



It is with sadness and deep respect that Selwyn marks the passing of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh on 9 April 2021, just two months before his 100th birthday. Prince Philip was Chancellor of the University of Cambridge for 35 years, from December 1976 to June 2011.

Prince Philip visited Selwyn on three occasions as Chancellor of the University. The appointment of a Royal Chancellor in 1976, the first since Prince Albert in 1847, prompted Owen Chadwick to confess to the Queen that, owing to the second master's disability, Selwyn took the loyal toast seated. In November 1977, Prince Philip made a courtesy visit during his first year in office; and a photograph shows the planting

of a magnolia in the winter gloom. This visit was noticed by a sharp-eyed Princess Margaret on her visit to the college in May 1979. On signing the visitors' book, she spotted that an earlier signatory had been 'Philip' and she pointed out that his writing had been so forceful as nearly to perforate the page.

Prince Philip's visit in June 1983 was to mark the end of the Selwyn centenary year celebrations (1882-1983) and is well illustrated in the photographs. As the *College History* records, the chancellor's address 'was brief but his words well chosen'.

He was particularly good at 'doing a room'. In other words moving round a room full of

people and somehow talking to everyone. If a postgraduate was due to be presented it was worth ensuring they had six crisp sentences ready to utter about their research. The chancellor was certain to ask about their work and waffly responses were not well received.

The chancellor's third visit to Selwyn was an overnight stay in the Master's Lodge in July 2000 prior to his opening the university's Centre for Mathematical Sciences. He was an easy and delightful guest. We invited a dozen junior members of the college to have breakfast with him in the Lodge and it has to be said, at least at that time of day, Prince Philip was the most wide awake person present.

Sir David Harrison, April 2021



# Prince Philip at Selwyn

Below: Prince Philip planting a magnolia tree in the gloom of a November evening. Right: The magnolia tree 44 years on.



**Michael P. Wells (SE 1973)**  
"Did an excellent job as University Chancellor, exceptionally engaged and supportive!"

Below: Prince Philip and Owen Chadwick.



1977



**Neil Swinnerton (SE 1976)**  
"I was at Selwyn from 1976 to 1979 and met the Duke of Edinburgh during his 1977 visit. I even spoke to him briefly. He made a favourable impression on me and I have thought of him fondly since then."

Below: The archive materials on display proved to be of interest to Prince Philip during his visit.



1983

Below: Prince Philip was the guest of honour Selwyn's Centenary garden party.



**Ruth Saunders (SE 1978)**

During the 1983 visit, around 20 students had been invited to meet HRH. Owen Chadwick said, "These are graduate students." HRH: "Oh, you're the ones who don't do any work."

**Mark Charles (SE 1981):**

"I remember him visiting Selwyn as part of the Centenary celebrations in 1983, and being hosted by Owen Chadwick. The chapel choir performed madrigals from the Hall steps for a party in Old Court. I am not sure AVJ [Dr Andrew Jones (a.k.a. 'AVJ')] particularly enjoyed conducting a group singing fa-la-la-la-la-la."

2000

**Sue Jeffries**, Selwyn's Domestic Housekeeping Supervisor at the time of the Duke's visit in July 2000, was in charge of all the domestic arrangements for his overnight stay in the Master's Lodge. She remembers all the attention to detail that was required to ensure The Duke of Edinburgh was made comfortable – including purchasing a cream coloured, pure new wool blanket from Robert Sayle's department store (now John Lewis). Mrs Jefferies still has the letter of thanks passed on by Sir David Harrison on the notice board in her office.



Above: Sir David Harrison shows Prince Philip Selwyn's ambitious plans for the development of the college.

Left: Prince Philip signs Selwyn's visitors' book once more.

Below: The Prince, always interested in speaking to students, was particularly good at 'doing a room'.



2011

Above: Selwyn's Sheila Scarlett leads Prince Philip.

**Professor Jeremy Sanders CBE FRS**, Emeritus Professor at the Department of Chemistry, remembers meeting Prince Philip on a number of occasions. "I'm actually a great fan of Philip as an individual: in the '80s I was given 7 minutes to teach him nuclear magnetic resonance, and his questions were absolutely spot on; in the early-2000s when I was Chemistry HoD we hosted him for a longish visit which included him asking excellent and motivating questions of students strategically placed around the building and at tea in the tea room. And I met him quite frequently in his last few years as Chancellor around Cambridge, Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle at assorted events."





© National Army Museum

There is something particularly eloquent about objects that have witnessed war and conflict. As a historian who works with material culture, I have developed a great appreciation for the tangible nature of objects and how they present opportunities to investigate the ways in which people lived and interacted with one another in years gone by. Military collections can tell us many things, including how developments in science and technology have influenced the application of force and innovations in tactics and strategy; or how war has infused art, fashion, design and popular culture. These collections can also tell us much about the first-hand experiences of the soldier, the brutality of the battlefield, and the significance of memory.

Late last year I joined Selwyn as the inaugural National Army Museum Fellow in Indian Military History, a post established through the combined efforts of the college and the present director of the museum (and Selwyn alumnus), Justin Maciejewski (SE 1985). Using the museum's collections as a basis for research, the fellowship called for an innovative project on the history of the British Indian Army. The National Army Museum's collections reflect an enduring relationship between South Asia and Britain, and the entanglements of war, conquest, collaboration, resistance and empire. The significance of the history of the British Indian Army to the museum is mirrored in the Indian Army Memorial Room at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. The room was initially formed in 1950, after calls were made to preserve the heritage of the British Indian Army, which was disbanded in 1947 after Independence and the partition of India. Many of the artefacts chosen for the display would form the foundation collections of the National Army Museum, established by Royal Charter in 1960.

During my three-year fellowship at Selwyn my research will investigate various aspects of the history and material culture of the British Indian Army. To determine if there were unique means of memorialising experiences and campaigns specific to British Indian Army personnel, objects that have (and continue to) feature in regimental messes such as paintings, sculpture, ceramics and silver, along with weaponry commissioned by or gifted to the regiments, will be studied. How the British Indian Army was reflected in exhibitions and displays, past and present,



Dr Nicole Hartwell

**Dr Nicole Hartwell, National Army Museum Fellow, introduces the background to her new research project at Selwyn.**

**Top left**  
Indian Army Officers and NCOs, 2nd Regiment of Cavalry, Punjab Frontier Force, c. 1863. Oil on canvas by Gordon Hayward, c. 1890

**Right:**  
Indian Army Memorial Room at Sandhurst, featuring stained glass window memorials designed by David Maile and made by G Maile & Sons, 1970.

# War, memory & military culture

will also be examined and put into context. Lastly, the project will trace where the material culture of the British Indian Army transferred to with the amalgamation of regiments, the creation of the armies of India and Pakistan, and the establishment of military museums abroad and in the United Kingdom. It is hoped that one of the major outputs of the project will be an international conference held at Selwyn's Quarry Whitehouse Auditorium.

My work during the fellowship draws on my past research in late-eighteenth and nineteenth-century British military and imperial history. It was during my postdoctoral work at National Museums Scotland that I developed a great interest in examining the meaning and function of artefacts in military culture, including their creation (and modification) to form trophies, memorials, and relics. This project involved undertaking research on artefacts held in regimental, corps and service museums across the United Kingdom, and coincided with a revival of interest – and much academic and public discussion, controversy and debate – on the colonial origins of collections. Through my investigations, it became clearer to me that provenance research benefits greatly from a deeper understanding of both imperial and military history, as well as practices that are specific to particular military cultures.

The premise of my fellowship at Selwyn finds many parallels with Cambridge University's growing commitment to examining collections forged in the context of war and empire, and I look forward to collaborating with curators and scholars at the Fitzwilliam Museum, the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, and the University Library during my time here. One of the most promising aspects of the project will be the potential to exchange knowledge with curators and institutions in India and Pakistan, through networks established by the Centre for South Asian Studies at Cambridge, and the National Army Museum. I hope that through the project I will have a chance to make connections with both retired and current serving officers in the United Kingdom and abroad, to gain a greater understanding of how the history of British-Indian relations has shaped local and international military cultures to this day.

For more information, see the National Army Museum website: [www.nam.ac.uk](http://www.nam.ac.uk) and The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst Trust: [www.sandhursttrust.org](http://www.sandhursttrust.org).



© National Army Museum



Skinner's Horse at Exercise, c. 1840. Oil on canvas by John Reynolds Gwatkin.

© National Army Museum



Memorial to the Indian Soldier II, stained glass window in the Indian Army Memorial Room.

© National Army Museum



# Honorary Fellows

**Clive Lewis is the son of a miner who went to a comprehensive school. David Dabydeen spent time growing up in care. Both rose to eminence: Clive as a senior judge, and David as a writer, academic and diplomat. Now both are new honorary fellows.**

## The Right Honourable Lord Justice Lewis (Sir Clive Lewis)

Selwyn fellow Dr James Keeler, who proposed Sir Clive for an honorary fellowship, writes this appreciation.

Clive was brought up in the town of Pontardawe, near Swansea in south Wales, an area long associated with mining and heavy industry. Clive's Father was a miner, and you will find the miners lamp he used right up until he retired proudly displayed in Clive's home as a reminder of his deep roots in the Welsh valleys. Clive showed academic promise from the start and by his own admission benefitted from an early out-reach scheme run by Churchill College, resulting in him coming up to read Law in 1978. That was the start of a steady rise first in academia, then at the bar, and finally in the judiciary. In 2020 Clive was appointed as a Lord Justice of Appeal and is the college's highest-ranking alumnus in the judiciary. Clive's association with Selwyn was as Fellow in Law and lecturer at the Law Faculty (1986-1993).

It is not that unusual for academic lawyers to migrate to the bar after a while, but Clive is distinguished by the way he has continued to pursue his academic interests at the same time as a demanding career at the bar and on the bench. His *Judicial Remedies in Public Law*, now in its 6th edition, has become a key text for practicing lawyers and judges alike. Those who have been lucky enough to be taught by Clive, or to count him as a colleague or friend, will all attest to his razor like intellect: he can always put his finger on the key point and spot the weakness in an argument. No doubt these are the traits that made him such a successful barrister and led him to be a formidable judge. But with Clive these intellectual powers all come wrapped up with great warmth, great wit, and a powerful sense of what is right and proper. He has a remarkable legal mind, but is also a wonderful human being.



Right: The Right Honourable Lord Justice Lewis.



## Professor David Dabydeen (SE 1974)

Professor David Dabydeen is an academic, a writer and a diplomat. He studied English at Selwyn, is an award-winning novelist and poet, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He was a professor at the University of Warwick, based in the Centre for Caribbean Studies. Having previously been a member of the UNESCO executive board, he became Guyana's Ambassador to China in 2010 and served until 2015. Professor Dabydeen is now the director of the Ameena Gafoor Institute for the study of Indentureship and its legacies.

I was born in Guyana. Literacy rates in the West Indies are exceptional, parents keep a vigilant eye over their children's schooling, and teachers are revered. There are some excellent secondary schools in Guyana and the region, modelled after British public schools. However, competition between students and strict discipline in the classroom were excessive, so I was relieved to find myself in a London classroom in 1969, where the atmosphere was much less stifling, teachers more relaxed and the examination system not so relentless.

In many ways, it wasn't the easiest of times. 'Paki bashing' was rife, racist graffiti daubed everywhere, bovver boys on the prowl. On the other hand, all my teachers were good, decent people, as were most of my fellow schoolchildren. I had many close encounters with skinheads, but remained unscathed.

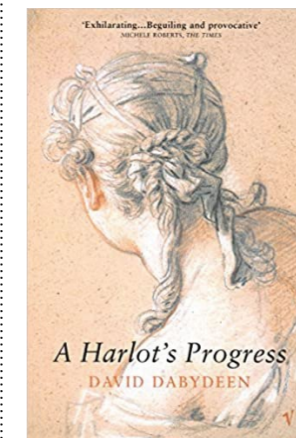
I was in care when I was growing up in South London, so moving to Cambridge was a great leap into a world of privilege and scholarship. It took a little while to settle down, but I made good and close friends, with whom I am still in touch. I felt socially inferior, and very much an ethnic minority, but before long all such feelings were swept away by the privilege of keeping company with exceptionally bright undergraduates and distinguished fellows. And what an amazing experience to walk past a college where Milton or Marlowe studied! And just to sit in the

Reading Room of the University Library! Selwyn became home, academically but also literally: I was often homeless during the vacations, but Selwyn allowed me to stay in my room.

I won a prestigious prize: the Quiller-Couch Prize was established by the English Faculty in 1978, and I was lucky to be its first recipient. It was for creative writing. I had submitted some poems on the cancutters on a Guyanese plantation, written in creole. The poems, added to, were published, and this volume of poetry, my first publication, went on to win the Commonwealth Poetry Prize, in 1984. So the Quiller Couch Prize gave me a measure of confidence to write. The 'threw and sinew' of creole reminded me of Medieval alliterative verse (the Gawain poet), and I was keen to explore its potential for lyric poetry.

I did my PhD on the subject of the 18th century artist William Hogarth. Hogarth was the first major English artist to represent the lives of the common people on canvas, at a time when canvas was the exclusive province for the depiction of religious subjects or aristocratic persons. His portraits of his servants, and his *Shrimp Girl*, are among the very best paintings of the 18th century. My novel – *A Harlot's Progress* – looked at the original 1732 Hogarth engravings from the point of view of the black slave boy pictured within them.

I developed a kinship with Hogarth, having spent nearly four years looking at his works, day after day, and even dreaming about it. I remember dreaming of discovering a lost painting of his. Anyway, I would visit his grave in Chiswick, and talk to him, silently. I would seek his forgiveness in case I misread the narratives of his engravings. He, of course, thought that it was odd that a Guyanese youth was fascinated by his 18th century art which was quintessentially English (Hogarth despised anything French or Italian). So, having



Above: David Dabydeen's *A Harlot's Progress* reinvents characters – including a prostitute and a young servant boy – from William Hogarth's engravings from 1732. Right: Plate 2 of the series of 6 engravings.



an abiding dialogue and fellowship with Hogarth made it very easy to take on the persona of his black figures in imaginative fiction. He painted black servants/slaves in each of his major works, and he pointed viewers' attention to how art collecting at the time was partly funded by the revenues of slavery.

I am now working with Selwyn on a new initiative to establish an academic post in indentureship at Cambridge. Indentureship is a relatively neglected subject. The system was created by Sir John Gladstone, who shipped Indian labourers ('coolies') to British Guiana from 1838 onwards, to replace emancipated Africans. Eventually, over a million Indians were shipped to plantations in the Caribbean, Mauritius, South Africa, Fiji and a dozen other countries. Chinese and Portuguese labourers were sent to Caribbean plantations. In previous centuries, the Irish were indentured in North America, as were American Indians. The British, the Dutch, the French, were involved in moving people around the world. Indentureship, described by 19th Century British Abolitionists as 'a new system of slavery' had astonishingly positive outcomes, unplanned of course. For example, on board the 'coolie' ships, upper caste Brahmins had to share the same space and eat the same food with lower caste people. Indians were liberated from caste, which was completely irrelevant on the plantations. And the shippers huddled Muslims and Hindus together, so religious hostility diminished greatly. The children and grandchildren of Indentureship, which ended in 1920, have achieved much. Just think of VS Naipaul winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in the first year of the 21st Century! I am interested in Indentureship, from an academic perspective, but also because my great great grandfather was a 'Gladstone coolie'. And Selwyn is the best place for any academic post created, since William Gladstone (son of Sir John) was a good friend of the college, funding the chapel bell, for instance.



SELWYN COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT

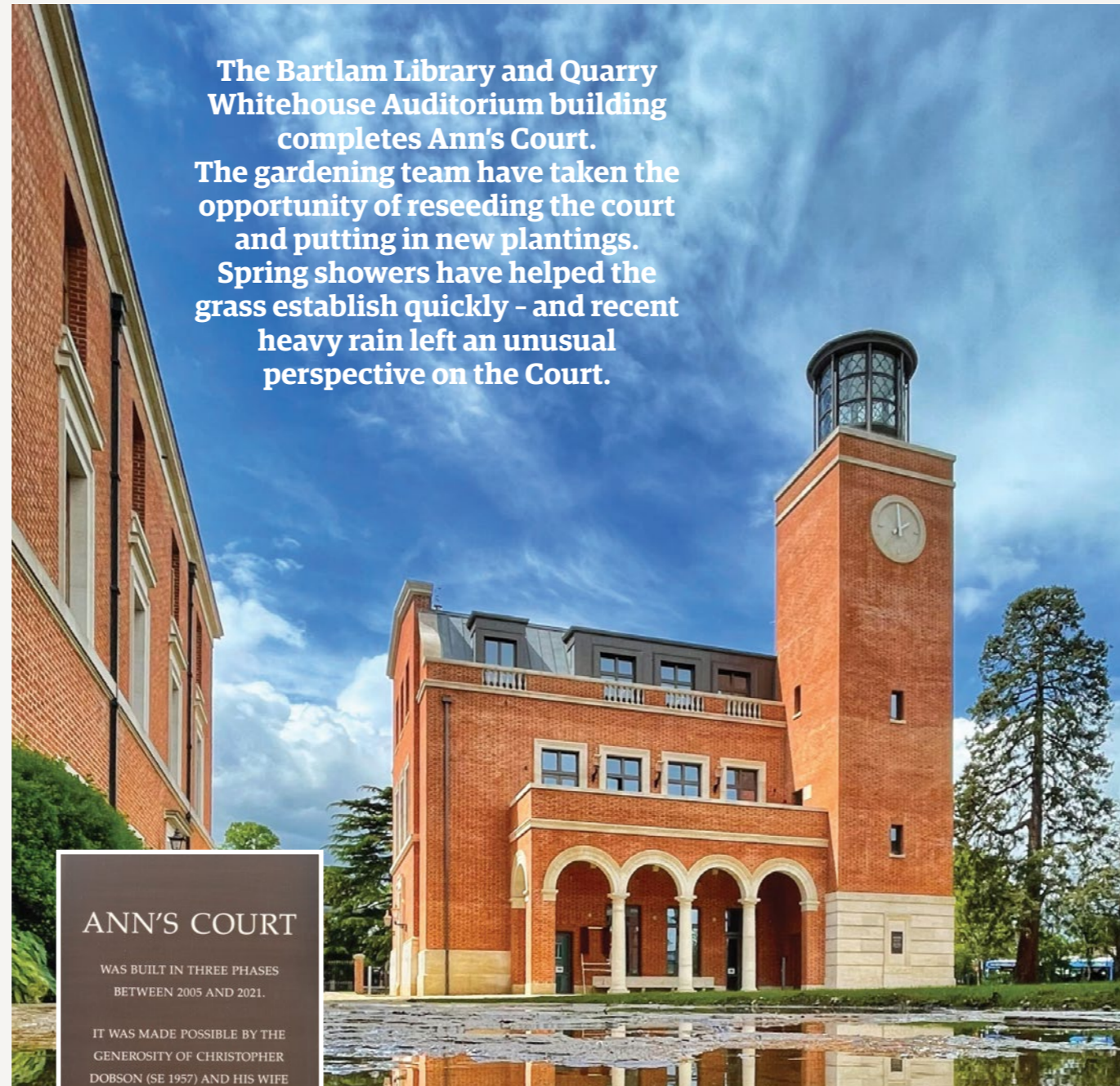
# Ann's Court, the Bartlam Library & Quarry Whitehouse Auditorium

Ann's Court is now completed. The plaque unveiled by our principal donor Chris Dobson records that the buildings span 2005 to 2021, and together form the Court which is named after Chris's late wife Ann. We believe the best was saved until the last, and after seven years of planning, and the many progress reports and photographs of construction, we are thrilled that the wonderful new Bartlam Library and Quarry Whitehouse Auditorium are open. We invited the University of Cambridge photo diarist Sir Cam to visit our new building and to give you a glimpse of what it's like. We at Selwyn are very proud that more than 1,000 alumni and friends donated funds to this very exciting project and made it a reality.

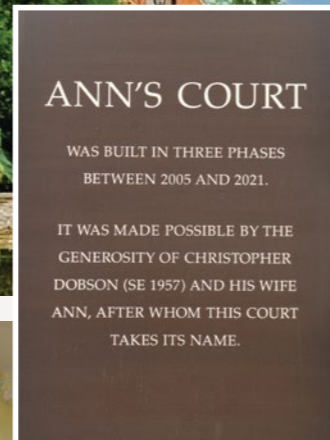


Left: The Quarry Whitehouse Auditorium was officially opened on 4 June 2021 by its principal benefactors Gareth Quarry and Jill Whitehouse.

Right: The Donald Welbourn Reading Room on the second floor, supported by Robin Jeffs (SE 1959) together with his wife Freda who made a major benefaction. The room is made bright and welcoming by the light streaming in through the skylights and large windows on all four sides.



The Bartlam Library and Quarry Whitehouse Auditorium building completes Ann's Court. The gardening team have taken the opportunity of reseeded the court and putting in new plantings. Spring showers have helped the grass establish quickly - and recent heavy rain left an unusual perspective on the Court.



Above right & right: Some of our donors chose to have their names - or the names of a loved one - inscribed on bricks and paving stones. Others asked for chairs in the auditorium or library to have a nameplate inscribed. A few were able to have a study room named after them - or, as in the case of the 1991 year group, remembering two alumni who have sadly died, Paddy Smith and Tony Hitch.

The Quarry Whitehouse Auditorium, named by benefactors Gareth Quarry and Jill Whitehouse (both SE 1978), has already hosted live events. The annual Ramsay Murray Lecture, this year given by Professor Rana Mitter on *Where China goes next*, had a small group of guests in the auditorium, and a large virtual audience via live streaming - if you missed it, you can see the recording by following the link in Listen to Lectures on our website: [www.selwynalumni.com/listen-to-lectures](http://www.selwynalumni.com/listen-to-lectures). We hope to be able to invite you back to Selwyn to see the new building very soon - and to host many more events here in the future.

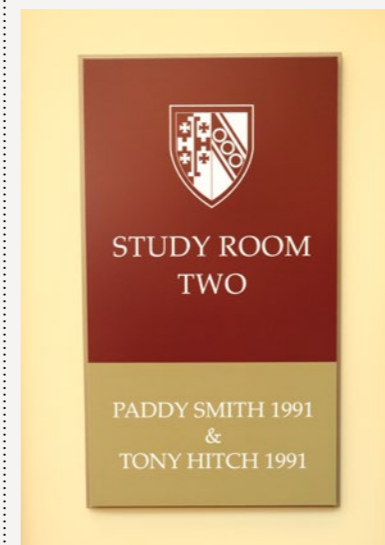
Top right: Dr Christopher Dobson with his daughter Abigail Bennington, the Master Roger Mosey, University Vice-Chancellor Professor Stephen Toope and Project Manager Nigel New.



Above: The tiered seating in the Quarry Whitehouse Auditorium is cleverly designed so that the space is available theatre-style for performances, lectures and presentations, and

is also retractable - opening up the area for social gatherings or other events, such as exams or conferences, creating a multi-functional space

Below: The first floor will be home for the majority of the Bartlam Library's 30,000-plus books and periodicals, with quiet reading nooks and study rooms. Students have been using the library to revise for their exams. The books will be transferred from the old library during the summer vacation. The library has been named by Tom Bartlam (SE 1966), whose generous philanthropy helped make the project possible.





SELWYN'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

# Improving housing for future generations Using sustainable solutions

The college recently took the opportunity to expand its property portfolio around the main site with the purchase of a former vicarage in 1 Selwyn Gardens. This will be converted into accommodation for up to 10 graduate students, and will offer an expansion of our affordable housing for MCR members.

The Selwyn Gardens site has a direct connection through its garden to the existing hostels at 29 and 31 Grange Road, both of which are due for refurbishment. We are therefore looking at the site holistically, and aiming to create an environmentally sustainable project which will deliver green solutions wherever possible. These pages show illustrations of what might be possible, though the detailed plans will not be confirmed until they're approved by the college's governing body.

The primary motivation for wanting to create sustainable housing for our students is to find ways to reduce the carbon footprint of the college - CO<sub>2</sub> being one of the main contributors to climate change. One of the most effective ways to do this is to retrofit older buildings so that you achieve high levels of insulation and airtightness of walls, windows and roofs.

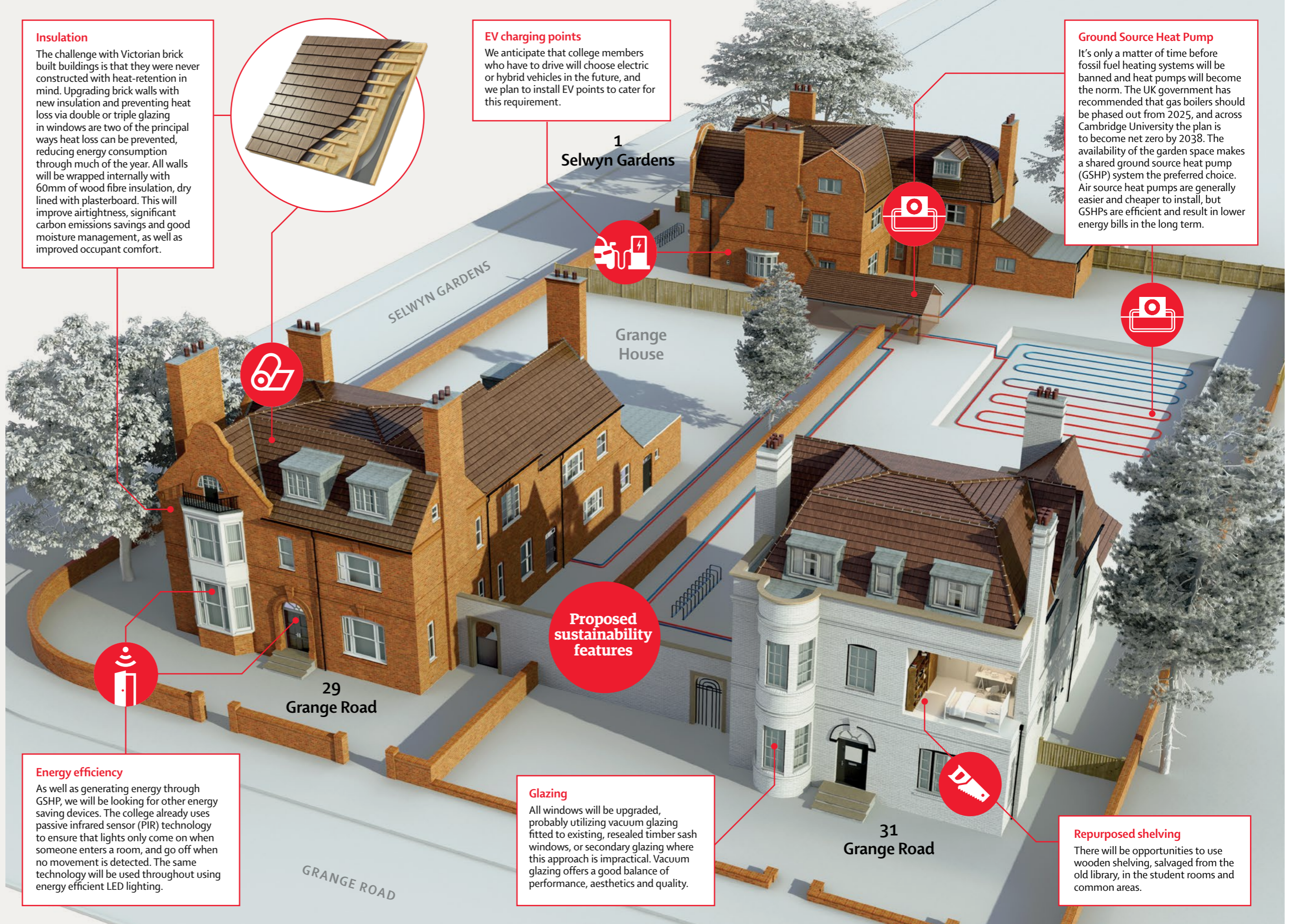
The opportunities offered by treating all three houses as a single project includes the possible provision of ground source heating that can be shared equally. We'll also be looking to install waste water heat recovery systems on showers, reducing overall hot water energy demand.

Aside from the major changes to heating and improving the fabric of the buildings, we'll be looking for incremental improvements across

the board. LED downlighting will be used throughout, some controlled by movement sensors and only active when there is insufficient daylight available. Electric charging points for vehicles will also be considered, alongside secure cycle storage. The Selwyn Gardens property will also have a fully accessible room on the ground floor, with the kitchen and communal areas redesigned to meet the requirements of all users.

Overall we estimate these improvements will reduce the carbon footprint of the site by over 60% compared with current use. We've tried to balance performance with value and we are confident our plans will deliver improved comfort, reduced carbon emissions and a clear commitment to environmental performance. Cambridge has no end of older properties used for student accommodation and we hope that this project will provide an exemplar and an inspiration to other colleges and the university as to what can be achieved.

It all comes at a cost of course - which will be carefully reviewed before going ahead. If any readers are in a position to help financially, the Development Director Mike Nicholson would be very pleased to hear from you and to provide details of our plans. Contact details: development-director@sel.cam.ac.uk or telephone +44 (0)1223 330403.



**Insulation**  
The challenge with Victorian brick built buildings is that they were never constructed with heat-retention in mind. Upgrading brick walls with new insulation and preventing heat loss via double or triple glazing in windows are two of the principal ways heat loss can be prevented, reducing energy consumption through much of the year. All walls will be wrapped internally with 60mm of wood fibre insulation, dry lined with plasterboard. This will improve airtightness, significant carbon emissions savings and good moisture management, as well as improved occupant comfort.

**EV charging points**  
We anticipate that college members who have to drive will choose electric or hybrid vehicles in the future, and we plan to install EV points to cater for this requirement.

**Ground Source Heat Pump**  
It's only a matter of time before fossil fuel heating systems will be banned and heat pumps will become the norm. The UK government has recommended that gas boilers should be phased out from 2025, and across Cambridge University the plan is to become net zero by 2038. The availability of the garden space makes a shared ground source heat pump (GSHP) system the preferred choice. Air source heat pumps are generally easier and cheaper to install, but GSHPs are efficient and result in lower energy bills in the long term.

1  
Selwyn Gardens

Grange House

29  
Grange Road

Proposed sustainability features

31  
Grange Road

GRANGE ROAD

**Energy efficiency**  
As well as generating energy through GSHP, we will be looking for other energy saving devices. The college already uses passive infrared sensor (PIR) technology to ensure that lights only come on when someone enters a room, and go off when no movement is detected. The same technology will be used throughout using energy efficient LED lighting.

**Glazing**  
All windows will be upgraded, probably utilizing vacuum glazing fitted to existing, resealed timber sash windows, or secondary glazing where this approach is impractical. Vacuum glazing offers a good balance of performance, aesthetics and quality.

**Repurposed shelving**  
There will be opportunities to use wooden shelving, salvaged from the old library, in the student rooms and common areas.



## SELWYN'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

# New archive and study centre

Now that the Bartlam Library is built, and is in the process of being fitted out ready to house more than thirty thousand books, we can turn our attention to the exciting plans for the old library.

The ground floor of the original memorial library will be completely refurbished to create five flexible teaching spaces with movable walls to enable them to be converted into larger rooms. During the vacations, these spaces can double up as conference breakout rooms, earning income for the college and supporting our business plan.

### A new resource facility for medic and vet students

One of these spaces will be a new facility of a dedicated teaching and demonstration room for the medical specimens 'handling collection', for medic and vet students. Selwyn has an impressive collection of anatomical models, skeletons, teaching aids and large illustrations, all of which would be enhanced by the provision of new

digital resources, such as virtual cadavers and augmented reality (AR) anatomy teaching aids. AR technology used to be associated with the world of gaming, however its immersive nature offers limitless opportunities to enhance medical learning in different ways and particularly the teaching of anatomy.

This new teaching and study room would provide students with access to these resources so they can be used during formal supervisions and teaching sessions but also in their own time for further learning and understanding. Overall, our aim is to create a resource that will be the best of its kind in Cambridge.

### A new hub for alumni and friends

Meanwhile, the upper floor of the library will become a new home for our alumni, together with the offices of the Development and Alumni

Relations team. A light and comfortable reception area will be available for alumni and friends who may wish to meet during office hours, whether you are attending an event or simply passing through Cambridge. There will be tea making facilities and copies of books and publications by alumni to browse – and of course the opportunity to meet and chat with members of the development team.

### Archives and rare books

The ground floor extension will provide much improved facilities for the college archives and its collection of rare books. These new facilities will benefit from environmental controls

and inert shelving, providing a more suitable home for these important collections.

The location means that access to these collections will be much improved, easier to find and use. We hope that this in turn will stimulate a greater interest in the history of the college and underline the importance of alumni donations of photographs, records and other ephemera that new generations find so interesting. The archives will also offer a dedicated research area and exhibition space, allowing more of the collections to be explored, displayed and enjoyed. All the works are planned to be completed by Michaelmas 2022.



### A call for help

The costs of the refurbishment and improvements will be £1.4m. In return, students and alumni will enjoy tremendous new facilities in the heart of Selwyn. If you are able to help us with this important project, please use the accompanying donation form or visit our website at [www.selwynalumni.com/makeagift](http://www.selwynalumni.com/makeagift) where you can make secure online gifts. Or better still, phone us on +44 (0)1223 763937 and we'll be pleased to take a credit card donation and tell you more about our plans.

Below: The main library space will be transformed into a suite of five flexible, teaching, seminar and supervision rooms. During the long vacation, these will also be available as part of our enhanced offer to conference guests, helping to generate income that will be ploughed back into supporting the college.



# Meet the Fellowship

In our latest fellowship profiles, we hear about defining what we mean by war; developing a passion for animals; and designing buildings that change lives for the better.

## Dr Ronita Bardhan

Subject: **Architecture**  
College Position: **Director of Studies in Architecture, Post Graduate Tutor**  
University Department: **Department of Architecture**  
University Position: **Lecturer of Sustainability in the Built Environment**

### Tell us about your background – where were you born and brought up?

I was born in one of the most populated and remarkable cities: Calcutta, now Kolkata, in India. In a country where educating girls comes with its share of challenges, my parents always supported me in ensuring a good education. For them, it was probably the only way to secure my independence. I studied in Loreto – a convent school. Being a Loretoite, as we call ourselves, means we are taught to be responsible for our futures and able to script our own life stories.

Everyday life in Kolkata is juxtaposed within its glorious architectural past. I remember my childhood weekends were marked by visits to Indian Museum, Eden Gardens, or Victoria Memorial. St Paul's Cathedral and Hog Market were a must-visit during Christmas, and for any other official work, it was the government buildings that bear Kolkata's art legacy. In short, growing up in Kolkata means growing up with architecture.

### At what stage in life did you start taking a professional interest in architecture?

One reason why architecture attracts me is because I saw my father build our own house over a long period for lack of resources at a single go. My father had started to build our home when I was very young, perhaps five years old, and it remains incomplete! I saw how a house must adapt to a growing need of a family as it progresses



Dr Ronita Bardhan

“  
Growing up in Kolkata means growing up with architecture.”

”

through the variable familial phases. At one point, we needed so many separate rooms, and now it is a maintenance hassle for my parents. The courtyard in my grandparents' house in a village was also always my point of attraction. There were so many cultural practices that revolved around the courtyards.

### You are probably the only Selwyn fellow who has actually designed a building. How important is the practical side of your experience?

When I joined the practice after my architecture education, I realised that I had to unlearn a lot and pick up new collaboration skills. I was lucky to have the opportunity to be part of many winning competition design teams. I have been part of the core design teams where I realised that architects have an immense role in ensuring sustainable futures. It was empowering to see how a conceptual design goes through engineering processes before it takes a final shape where aesthetics and technology blend seamlessly. During my industry experience, I understood that architects are like choir directors and that architecture is indeed frozen music if done right.

### You've studied and lived in all parts of the world – was that always part of a plan, or has it just happened?

I never planned it, and it was more of a natural progression of my work. My pursuit for knowledge took me to so many places, or perhaps it was predestined; but I have lived in three of the world's most populous cities: Kolkata, Tokyo and Mumbai, with varied quality of life. This makes me believe that population is not the problem, how we design our cities is.

After my PhD, I shifted to Mumbai to teach in an engineering institute. I saw a new type of formal housing – slum rehabilitation housing emerging within the landscape of Mumbai. It was interesting to see that informal settlers, which constitute a majority of Mumbai's population, will be living in formal housing for the first time. On the one hand, I saw that the rehabilitated people were happy to own a house in India's economic capital, which is still an aspiration for many (including me).

On the other hand, I saw the dysfunctional designs with severe consequences to good living. I started my research on this new transitional housing in India and globally.

### What brought you to Cambridge?

My education was mostly architectural engineering and urban science but working in the transitional housing of



the global south made me realise that I needed to develop skills in social sciences and humanities. I found that CRASSH (the Cambridge centre for research in the arts, social sciences and humanities) was a perfect platform. It opened my endeavour to combine engineering with social sciences. Cambridge has a long lineage of producing thinkers whose ideas have changed the world for good. And this has been my intrinsic motivation to be part of the Cambridge fraternity.

**Is it fair to say that you have a ‘people first’ approach, too, that may have been lacking in the past?**

Yes, most of my work is grounded in the ‘people, places and practices’ approach. I derive my research philosophy from the narratives and stories of the people which I combine in the built-environment modeling to develop digital tools for policy makers.

**Lockdown has been difficult for everyone, but we gather you had a particularly hairy experience with Cyclone Amphan on top of everything?**

Last year I went to India for a project work and was locked down for a significant period of time due to travel restrictions. I was in Kolkata when Amphan hit the eastern coast of India. The day of Amphan was scary but the scarier parts were the days that followed. We were out of electricity, water and mobile connection for almost a fortnight which took almost a month to stabilise. It was a nightmare during the pandemic.

**Finally – what do you think of Selwyn’s architecture?**

What I like about Selwyn’s architecture is its representation of the historical legacy of the college. My favourite part of the college is its humanised courtyards and the blooming gardens.

## Dr Stuart Eves

Subject: **Veterinary Medicine**  
College Position: **Tutor, Undergraduate Admissions Tutor, Director of Studies in Veterinary Medicine**

**Tell us about your background – where were you born and brought up?**

I was born in Leytonstone in East London, although my parents still live on a small-holding near Romford in Essex. Turn left from our family home and it’s countryside; turn right and it rapidly becomes London. It resulted in me going from a local



Dr Stuart Eves and a hungry kookaburra at a local animal sanctuary.

primary school to a much larger comprehensive.

**Presumably that background helps you now as an admissions tutor...**

I think it gives you a perspective. I was at a school with a lower-than-average progression to Higher Education, and the idea of Oxbridge was uncertain territory. I can see now that my school had a huge range of abilities to manage and multiple routes of progression. Staff and students alike need to understand what Cambridge is – not rumours, assumptions or expectations. So, running open days and residential along with going to schools is the reason I enjoy the role.

**When did the urge start to be a vet?**

Difficult to say because I think the strongest urge was that I would work with animals. There was a realisation during my A-levels that I wasn’t going to make it straight into vet school. I was not strong enough academically and my subject choices weren’t ideal. Instead, I took a degree course in Physiology and Immunology at Nottingham, and I think that’s where I finally understood my skills and how I worked. I thrived for the first time and genuinely started to love what I was learning. Being a vet still seemed like a good fit for me, so I applied to Cambridge to study veterinary medicine in my third year as much to satisfy my own curiosity – and feeling like a set of rejections would be the thing I needed to move on. But

when a big pack of material came through from St Edmund’s College in January 2001, it seemed possible.

**How did you end up on the academic side of veterinary?**

I had supervised during my clinical years (the advantage of having a prior degree). I moved back to Cambridge after my first job, and I was working at a nearby practice so offered to do some supervisions at St Edmund’s. It snowballed from there. I love teaching, and really that’s my focus. I use my veterinary skills in a local wildlife charity and various bits and pieces that come my way.

**What do you look for in vets coming to Cambridge? And how do you balance the high academic standards with the need for people who are practical in their care of animals?**

We look for a solid grounding in sciences because it underpins everything. It’s entirely possible to learn about a disease condition, know how to recognise it, and ultimately how to treat it – but it’s in understanding how it fits into first principles and the wider organism that gives you so much more resilience to the ‘curve-balls’ that practice throws. So, we look for those that understand their science. It means if you ask a question and get a text-book answer, you have to follow up with ‘but what does that mean to you?’ In terms of practical experience, it’s key that students have reflected on what they have seen. It is becoming harder and harder to get these experiences, but I think it is essential that when they do come up, they are used enthusiastically and to their fullest. Crucially, I need to feel confident this is someone that understands the career that they are considering joining. There are definite low points along with the highs, and so I need to know that they can stand up after the knocks and work for the next good news story.

**We should say at this stage that you’re famous for the number of animals you have at home. Have you done a count recently?**

I think with what people would call ‘pets’ – around 10. The fame probably comes from the 12 tortoises that roam the garden. Then we have six acres, so a collection of sheep, wildfowl and poultry. This is where it starts getting into the hundreds. The beehive is probably best seen as a single entity.

**How much time do you have to spend looking after them all – bearing in mind you also have a family and a job and the rest of your life?**

I think any farmer will tell you that you need to spend a bit of time just watching

them. You get to know their individual behaviours and as such, you notice if things are wrong. So, it’s about 30 minutes each morning and 20 or so every evening. But it’s a decent grounding at the start and end of every day. Weekends are often about catching up and doing jobs – but my young daughters (they’re six and two) help with that.

## Dr Lauren Wilcox

Subject: **Gender Studies**  
College Position: **College Lectureship in Politics and Gender Studies**  
University Position: **Deputy Director, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies**

**You are one of Selwyn’s American contingent... Tell us where you were born and brought up?**

I was born and raised in and around the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. I also did my undergraduate work there and got my PhD from the University of Minnesota, so I lived in the Twin Cities for almost all of the first 30 years of my life. Especially given the events of the past year, when it was the location for the murder of George Floyd with all the worldwide ramifications of that, I think of it often.

**You studied at the LSE. Was the UK always a country that interested you and where you might work?**

Not necessarily. It’s mostly about academic politics: the kind of approaches and methodologies I use in International Studies generally find a more welcoming home in the UK than in the US, with some notable exceptions. I had never been to the UK before I arrived for my Masters at the LSE.

**It’s possible that some people reading this may not be familiar with Gender Studies. Can you give us 50 words about what you see as its value in a modern university?**

The impact of Gender Studies surpasses any one discipline; it interrogates how gender, in its entanglement with race, sexuality, class, and other markers of power and difference, is present in every aspect of human life and profoundly shapes our world.

**Do you think that Gender Studies and some other related academic areas have an unfair image? Anyone who has met you would think immediately about humour and warmth, which is not the**

**stereotype of many academics.**

Thanks very much – but a better question might be who might think such things and why! Perhaps if such fields have an unfair image it is either because of sexist or racist stereotypes, and because of the ways in which people who work in such fields are all too often subject to politically motivated attacks in the media and online, often with devastating consequences. I’m very grateful that our Gender Studies community is very warm and supportive and that we have strong support here at Cambridge.

**Lockdown has been frustrating for everyone, but doubly so for you because you had ambitious travel plans?**

I’m grateful to have stayed healthy (so far) and that my family back home in Minnesota has been spared as well. I have been rather disappointed because my research leave began in March 2020 and will come to an end in the fall of 2021, so apparently perfectly timed for the pandemic. I had planned to travel to the United States (for a conference that was cancelled) in late March, and then onward to Australia to stay with a friend and co-author for a few months, and from there, who knows? But the pandemic dragged on so long I decided to just focus on writing my book from my rooms at Selwyn and waiting for my vaccine.

Dr Lauren Wilcox.



**“The impact of Gender Studies surpasses any one discipline.”**

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## Alumni Book Depository

As a scholarly library, the Bartlam Library is not able to take all alumni books and publications. However, we will soon have a dedicated space in the old library for alumni books to have a college home. We are creating a new 'alumni hub' where alumni and friends can meet, surrounded by copies of alumni books to browse, with titles from authors including Robert Harris, Justine Picardie, Richard Davenport-Hines, Christina Baker Kline and many more.

If you are an author, and would like to contribute to our alumni depository, please contact the Development & Alumni Office by email: [alumni-office@sel.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-office@sel.cam.ac.uk) or call +44 (0)1223 335843 to discuss – we'd love to hear from you.

Send us your published books!



More information on page 18

Selwyn is one of the few undergraduate colleges that hosts MSt students from the Institute of Continuing Education, and they are an important part of our college community. Many of our current and former students have experienced great success, of which Selwyn is very proud. Law alumna Annabel Steadman (SE 2010) returned to Selwyn to study creative writing. Her series of books - *Skandar and the Unicorn Thief* was the subject of a heated bidding war between multiple publishers. The winners of the auction, Simon & Schuster, will be publishing the first book in the series in 2022. Current creative writing student, Jill Damatac (SE 2019), has been signed by Astra House for her literary memoir *Dirty Kitchen*, with expected publication in 2023. Jill will be continuing her studies at Selwyn by beginning a PhD in English later this year.

# Learning how to write

Selwyn alumna Ann Morgan (SE 2000) first came to national attention when she set herself the task of reading a book from every country on Earth in

2012. It produced the critically-acclaimed *Reading the world: confessions of a literary explorer*, and she recently revisited the themes for a Radio 4 programme about reading outside your comfort zone. In the meantime, she also wrote a bestseller - *Beside Myself*, a literary psychological thriller about twins - which is now being developed for television. Ann was one of the many students who took a creative writing course; but is there a guaranteed path to success? Here she takes a look at writers' tasks, from finding the time for their passion through to assessing whether their work is any good.



I have wanted to write for as long as I can remember. But it was at Selwyn that that desire crystallised. Bolstered by the sense of infinite possibility that seemed to hang around the college during my time there, I began penning poems for music students to set in their composition assignments and shyly shared scraps of fiction with fellow English students before ultimately summoning the audacity to apply for the University of East Anglia's Creative Writing MA.

Two decades later, with three published books, numerous unpublished manuscripts, a Royal Literary Fund fellowship and many years' experience editing and mentoring other writers to my name, I look back on my naïve, early attempts to put stories into words with a mixture of embarrassment and affection. If I could stop that long-haired teenager wobbling along West Road on her bicycle and take her for a coffee and toastie at Indigo's, there are a few observations I would share – thoughts that I hope might also be useful for those thinking of taking up writing later in life, as many of my mentees do.

## Making writing a habit

The first concerns developing a sustainable writing routine. Stories of Jack Kerouac typing *On the Road* onto a continuous scroll in just three weeks or Frederick Forsyth writing *The Day of the Jackal* in 35 days are as unhelpful as they are seductive for aspiring authors. (They are also misleading, overlooking, as they do, the years of thinking, revising and editing that almost invariably attend such overnight successes.) The truth is that most novels are the product of sustained effort. As such, your best hope of writing a book lies in making writing a habit.

As with so many things in life, the key to developing this habit is being honest with yourself. If you're a night owl, there's no point committing to rising early to write; if professional or family obligations make daily sessions at the computer impossible, don't set yourself up to fail by resolving to write seven days a week. A silver lining of Covid-19 has been that it has enabled many of us to rethink our routines and priorities. For those keen to start writing, this is a great opportunity. All the same, it's

**"...the freeing - and sometimes maddening - thing about creative writing for those starting out is that there are no deadlines..."**

important to be realistic about what it will take to make sure you are still putting words on the page long after terms such as 'social distancing' and 'lockdown' have begun to sound quaint.

## You are arbiter

For high achievers and perfectionists (as Selwynites tend to be), this glacial pace can be frustrating. Given that most of us use the written word constantly in our work and personal life, it is hard to conceive of the time and reworking it can take to put a fully developed story on the page. Luckily, the freeing – and sometimes maddening – thing about creative writing for those starting out is that there are no deadlines. No DoS will grumble if you fail to complete your manuscript by the end of term; no Tripos mark hangs on your finishing revisions by a particular date. Instead of being tied to temporal markers, the bar you are trying to meet is a purely qualitative one and – in the first instance, at least – you are its arbiter.

## Find support

Small wonder, then, that writing is often characterised as lonely. However, it doesn't have to be. Communities abound for wordsmiths keen to connect with peers. These days, courses come in all shapes and sizes – from PhDs to night classes, as well as industry-focused sessions, such as those run by the literary agency Curtis Brown or the Faber Academy. These can be great places to foster supportive friendships. Mentoring schemes,

such as the one I work for at the Ruppin Agency Writers' Studio, offer the possibility of sustained, personal support from a published author (possibly most useful when you have a complete draft of your book). Meanwhile, online, countless Facebook groups, Twitter hashtags and websites bring together writers at all stages of their careers.

## Seek advice

And, of course, there are other books. Writing about writing is big business and bookshop shelves groan with volumes offering advice for those keen to create stories. My favourites include memoir-infused works, such as Elizabeth Gilbert's *Big Magic* and Stephen King's *On Writing* – and it's worth remembering that, as in workshop sessions, the best creative writers often aren't the most adept at explaining the process. However, I know plenty of people who swear by more technical, craft-driven works, among them Libbie Hawker's *Take Off Your Pants!* (yes, really), or books that sit more in the self-help stable, such as Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way* – which, frankly, makes my toes curl but others credit with miracles.

That, after all, is the most difficult, inspiring and addictive thing about writing: it is individual. What works for me may not suit you. As such, making a habit of writing and taking your words out into the world is a process of learning to discern – to recognise not only what is good and bad in what you produce but also in the feedback others give you – and developing the ability to set aside whatever constricts or undermines the story you want to tell, while clinging to the things that enrich and sustain it.

For my teenage self, wobbling along on her bicycle, was right about this: it is an audacious thing to write. It is ludicrous and presumptuous to require others to spend time and money reading things you have made up. As such, this exercise in courting the improbable must come from a place of hope, underpinned by that marvellous sense I found waiting for me the first time I stepped into Old Court – that anything is possible.



Steve Lennon



# The Sigmund Munz Asia Travel Bursary

## How a restless life inspired a gift for students

In recent years, many alumni have given the college funds to disperse to students in the form of grants or bursaries. This growing portfolio of awards is administered by the college, ensuring that grants are distributed fairly, with preference given to those who have limited means. You don't have to be a millionaire to do this and we're pleased to create dedicated, named funds with gifts from £10,000. **Guy Munz-Jones** (SE 1991) pictured below, is one such alumnus who, via a gift of shares, has created a new travel fund for students, and this is his story...

Guy Munz-Jones



**M**y grandfather, Sigmund Munz, was a visionary man: a Jewish businessman, born in Romania at the end of the 19th century, he had travelled on business to North and South America as well as around Europe by the end of the 1920s. He was also able to see what Hitler was doing in Germany and moved his family from Vienna (where my mother was born in 1937) to Luxembourg and then to London in 1939, thus escaping the Holocaust. After the war, he moved to Jersey and in the 1960s to Geneva. He was never entirely at ease and certainly not complacent, always looking to understand what he didn't understand or go somewhere else if that improved opportunities for his family. Inspired by him, I was brought up to believe that it was important to travel and meet people, to put oneself in their shoes and to understand their problems.

I chose to study Chinese at Selwyn in the 1990s for that reason. China – Asia – is no longer the distant, alien land that it may have seemed to most back in the 1990s but today it is even more important to meet and enable mutual understanding and appreciation as the world gets smaller and world power rebalances again. With the help of this bursary, I hope that

Selwyn students with limited resources may get the benefit of getting closer to the wonderful part of the world that is Asia, whether through studying, working or volunteering.

Below: Guy's grandparents Gerda and Sigmund Munz.



## Why donate shares to Selwyn?

Guy Munz-Jones made his donation to Selwyn via shares. Donating shares to support any aspect of the college's work is a simple way to help us provide a better education for our students. It's also one of the most tax-effective ways to give money.

- You won't have to pay any capital gains tax on the shares you donate and you can claim income tax relief too.
- If you are a higher rate (40%) taxpayer you will be able to claim income tax relief equal to 40% of the value of the gift.

- If you are a highest rate (45%) taxpayer you will be able to claim income tax relief equal to 45% of the value of the gift.

In order to qualify for the tax relief, the shares or securities must be:

- listed or dealt on a recognised UK or foreign stock exchange.
- units in authorised unit trusts.
- shares in a UK open-ended investment company.
- holdings in certain foreign collective investment schemes.

### How to donate shares worth more than £500

Our dedicated stockbroker, J M Finn, will help make selling your shares as easy and secure as possible. To start your giving journey, please contact the Development Director Mike Nicholson: [mgn24@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mgn24@cam.ac.uk) or on +44 (0)1223 330403.

### How to donate shares worth less than £500

If you would like to make a donation under £500, you can donate shares to ShareGift and mention Selwyn College. ShareGift is a charity specialising in accepting

smaller share donations and can be contacted on 0300 200 3310 or through the ShareGift website: [www.sharegift.org](http://www.sharegift.org).

If you are a UK taxpayer and unsure of your tax situation, you can get more information from HM Revenue & Customs helpline on 0300 200 3310 or visit the HMRC website: [www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/donating-land-property-or-shares](http://www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/donating-land-property-or-shares).

## Matched Funding

As this donation is Guy's first gift to the college, it also qualifies for an additional £26,000 in matched funds from the Harding Challenge. These matched funds will help Selwyn to pay for the future costs of an expanded Cambridge Bursary Scheme which will benefit many more students and their families. David and Claudia Harding's philanthropy to Cambridge has been wide ranging and includes significant support for postgraduate students.

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

Right: British philanthropists, David and Claudia Harding have donated an unprecedented £100 million gift to Cambridge University to help attract the most talented postgraduate and undergraduate students from around the world.



## Mehmet Doğar

### Harding Distinguished Postgraduate Scholar, 2019, From dream to reality – with a generous full scholarship

**L**ike probably most PhD students studying at Cambridge, I too, have always dreamed of one day being in this challenging and prestigious academic setting. However, perhaps, unlike many others, mine was a seven-year long dream and a dream applied only to Cambridge and not to any other university. My dream to do a PhD in History at Cambridge started in my first year as an undergraduate student of International Relations at the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, where I also completed my Master's degree. Even though, for most of my family and friends, it was an unrealistic dream to pursue; back then, I often caught myself either on Google Maps getting to know the streets of Cambridge or on the Faculty of History's website checking the profiles

of academics.

I was incredibly happy when, in March last year, I received an e-mail from Helen Pennant, the director of the Cambridge Trust, stating that I was selected to receive a prestigious Harding Distinguished Postgraduate Scholarship, a programme which was made possible by an extraordinary gift from David and Claudia Harding in February 2019. This generous full scholarship enabled me to make my dreams come true and to move to Selwyn College to study for a PhD in Modern European History at Cambridge.

The Harding Scholarship allows me to pursue my academic interests and to do my PhD on Turkey's socioeconomic relations with Italy in the interwar period (1919-1939)

under the supervision of Dr Kate Fleet. My PhD research builds upon my Master's thesis that analysed the diplomatic relations between the two countries in this period and examines the relationship from three angles: economy, knowledge and propaganda. In so doing it will offer a new and more nuanced understanding of these relations in this period. Examining these relations from a perspective that goes beyond the state-state relations will also, more generally, shed light on the socioeconomic life of the early Turkish republic and will provide an alternative historical contextualisation for Turkey's foreign policy of today.

Despite the unexpected difficulties that the pandemic has imposed on my research, Cambridge continues to offer a stimulating research environment through a variety of archives, libraries and research centres. This includes the Skilliter Centre for Ottoman Studies at Newnham College where I am currently a postgraduate researcher. It is the only research centre in the UK and Western Europe devoted purely to Ottoman and early Turkish republican studies. The centre has been an invaluable asset for my research thanks to its incredible library.

Since my arrival in Cambridge in October 2020, I have been involved in many projects at the Skilliter Centre, including the organisation of a webinar series on Ottoman and Turkish history called 'Ottomans Online'; the ongoing cataloguing project for the Richard Repp Collection by transcribing and translating the titles originally written in Ottoman Turkish; and a recent project to identify and digitise tapes featuring miscellaneous audio recordings in Turkish from the 1960s and '70s.

In addition to my research related activities, the Harding Scholarship has also enabled me to find a new home, thousands of miles away from Turkey. With its friendly and diverse community, Selwyn provided a comfortable and friendly atmosphere for my research. I am now the MCR Treasurer at Selwyn and work to sustain the beautiful environment we have at the college. My story has largely been made possible thanks to the generous support by David and Claudia Harding and I cannot express enough how grateful I am to both of them for transforming my life.

Mehmet Doğar

Mehmet Doğar





# News



Bishop Robert Hardy

## Tributes to Selwyn Fellows

### Bishop Robert Hardy

We were saddened to hear of the death of Bishop Robert Hardy – honorary fellow of the college, and former chaplain. Bob, an alumnus of Clare College, first came to Selwyn as chaplain in 1965. He went on to become a bishop, serving at Maidstone and then Lincoln, but returned to the college in 2008 for two terms as dean of chapel and chaplain. He remained a devoted supporter of the college, and gave the address at the funeral of Owen Chadwick in 2015.

### Dr Mića Panić

We also report with regret the death of Dr Mića Panić, former fellow in economics and bursar of the college. It was during his bursarship in 1990s that the masterplan for the college site was developed which is now coming to fruition with phase III of Ann's Court.

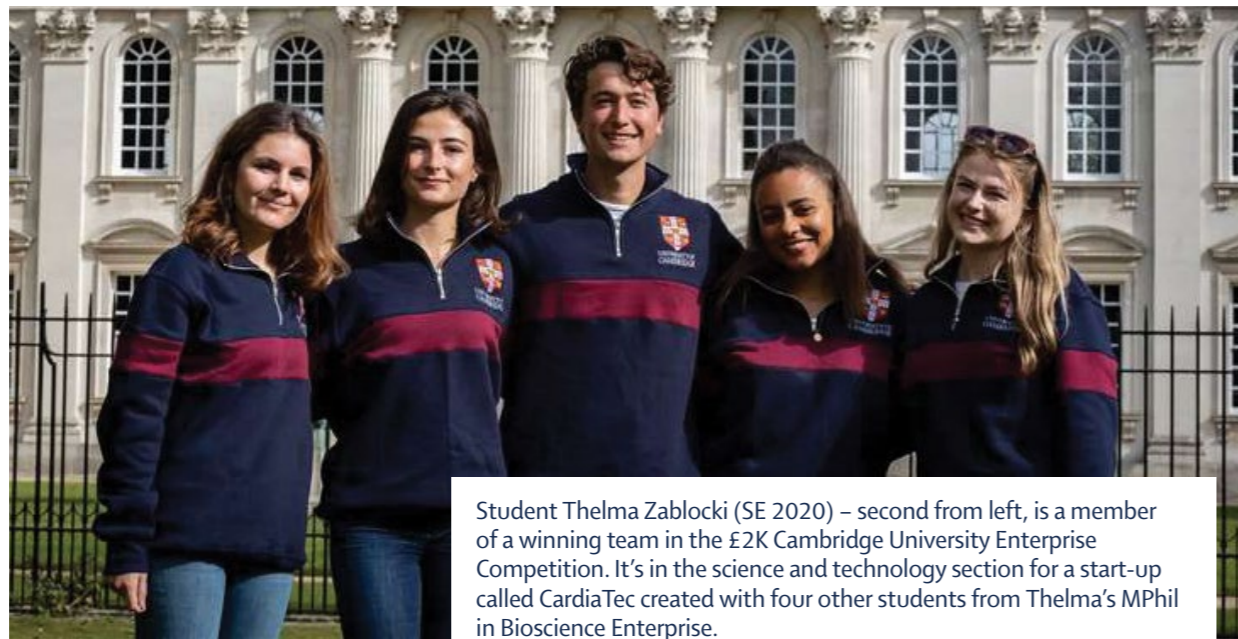


Above: Dr Mića Panić.



Alumnus Dr Marcos Gallego Llorente (SE 2013) has been selected for the Nova 111 List, which recognises the 111 young professionals with the highest potential in Spain. It recognises his work in digital health innovation.

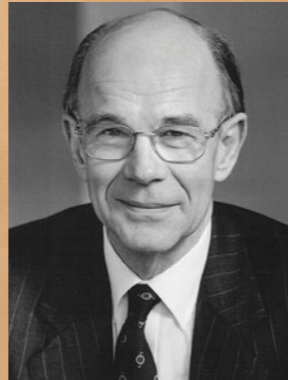
[www.111.novatalent.com/spanish-winners](http://www.111.novatalent.com/spanish-winners)



Student Thelma Zablocki (SE 2020) – second from left, is a member of a winning team in the £2K Cambridge University Enterprise Competition. It's in the science and technology section for a start-up called CardiaTec created with four other students from Thelma's MPhil in Bioscience Enterprise.

### Professor David Newland

Thanks to a generous donation, the college has been able to purchase two unique prototype folding bicycles, designed in the 1960s by the late Professor David Newland (SE 1954). David was a leading mechanical engineer who was involved in major infrastructure projects – but these ingenious bikes, designed for Raleigh, show another side of his keen intellect and wide interests. Raleigh went on to purchase Moulton, another manufacturer that already had a successful folding bike in production – so David's designs never made it to the factory. However, we would love to hear from any alumni who might be able to undertake or help support a restoration of these rare survivals. Our plan is to put them on permanent display at Selwyn as an unusual addition to the college archives.



Professor David Newland



**Note:** There will be full obituaries in the next edition of the college *Calendar*.



Michael Stephens-Jones

## Musical Honours for Selwyn Organ Scholar

Michael Stephens-Jones (SE 2018), the Percy Young senior organ scholar, currently in his third year reading music, has been awarded the Fellowship diploma of the Royal College of Organists (FRCO), widely recognised internationally as the most prestigious qualification for organists in the world. The examination includes a solo organ recital, rigorous keyboard tests, and written papers testing a variety of musical and analytical techniques, as well as covering various historical topics. It is highly unusual for this diploma to be achieved by someone who is still an undergraduate. In addition, Michael has been awarded a number of prizes, including the Dr F J Read prize, for achieving the highest overall marks across the whole examination, the Coventry Cathedral recital prize, for showing "outstanding ability in the performance of pieces", and the most-coveted of all the RCO prizes, the Limpus, Frederick Shinn, and Durrant Prize for achieving the highest mark in the practical part of the examination.

If you would like to hear Michael play, you can listen to his Williamson Prize recital, recorded on Sunday 6 June 2021, on [www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cbVQq6PHCO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cbVQq6PHCO)

## Journalism award for Land Grab Universities Project

Selwyn fellow Robert Lee, Cambridge University lecturer in American History, has been awarded a George Polk Award, one of the most prestigious in journalism. Last year, Dr Lee and co-winner Tristan Ahtone published a hard-hitting report revealing how 52 American universities built their fortunes using 11 million acres of Native American land, signed over amid violence, corruption and coercion. Through exhaustive research over several years, the Land-Grab Universities project located 80,000 parcels of land scattered across 24 states, identified their Indigenous owners, and traced every dollar endowed with profits from dispossession in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Dr Lee said: "Since its publication, *Land-Grab Universities* has sparked public conversations about the debts universities owe to Indigenous nations. This recognition will extend its reach. The Polk also has a track record of amplifying innovative forms of journalism. In this case, we combined historical research and investigative reporting in a way one rarely sees practiced. The project was risky in that regard. Hopefully, this award will encourage more collaborations between historians and journalists."

## Real Living Wage accreditation

Selwyn College is officially accredited as a living wage employer. It has been announced that the University of Cambridge has now been similarly accredited. Selwyn's bursar Martin Pierce said: "We are delighted to see Cambridge University getting accredited for the real living wage too. Selwyn has been paying the real living wage for several years now and became accredited by the Living Wage Foundation during 2020." The real living wage is the only rate calculated according to the costs of living. It provides a voluntary benchmark for employers who wish to ensure their staff earn a wage they can live on, not just the government minimum.

## Provisional Events Diary

### 2021

Jul 10/11	Ann's Court Donors' Garden Party
Sep 8	1960, 1961, 1965 & 1966 Reunion
Sep 15	1882 Society Lunch
Sep 18	1990, 1991, 2000 & 2001 Reunion
Sep 25	Alumni Day, 2010 & 2011 Reunion & Commemoration of Benefactors
Oct 28	MA Dining Evening
Nov 5	Alumni Guest Night
Dec 7	Carol Service, Selwyn
Dec 8	Carol Service, London
Dec 11	1970, 1971, 1980, 1981 Reunion

### 2022

Feb 10	MA Dining Evening
Mar 19	Parents' Lunch
Apr 2	MA Congregation & Dinner 2015
Apr 9	1962 & 1972 Reunion
May 5	MA Dining Evening
May 8	Friends of the Choir Evensong & Chapel Supper
May 13	Ramsay Murray Lecture
May 20	Alumni Guest Night
Jul 2	1987 & 1997 Reunion
Jul 9	Regular Givers' Lunch
Jul 9	Family Day

For further information about events and to book: [www.selwynalumni.com/eventscalendar](http://www.selwynalumni.com/eventscalendar) or telephone +44 (0)1223 767844.



## Janet Lucas retires

Janet Lucas leaves after 20 years. One of Selwyn's most familiar and much-loved figures retired earlier this year. Janet Lucas, who has seen generations of students and staff pass through the servery, leaves the college catering team. We wish her all the very best for the future.

The servery is now able to offer students and staff reusable containers for takeaway meals instead of disposable ones.



Richard Morgan



The Master Roger Mosey shares a few of his thoughts and observations of Selwyn during the past year.

# Princes, Masters, Towers & Boats



When I arrived here in 2013, the other heads of house were overwhelmingly male and rather grand; and many were experts in fields of a level of complexity which didn't translate easily into quick conversations over a glass of wine. Some of them were so busy in their labs or writing scholarly books that they inevitably had little time left for dealing with student life or wondering what the JCR was up to. But the colleges' committee, on which all the heads of house sit, now looks rather different. There are roughly as many women as men, and by this autumn three colleges will be led by people from ethnic minorities. Even more strikingly, two of the new incumbents left school without going to university – one even without A-Levels. This is wholeheartedly to be welcomed as a sign that the colleges want people with the right talent irrespective of background. There's just one note of caution. Future Mastership elections here or anywhere else are none of my business; but I would hate to see academics squeezed out of headships altogether. There is balance in all things, and I believe we outsiders have shown we can bring something to support the university's aims of intellectual leadership. But without the academics themselves, Cambridge would be nothing; and some of them living in Master's Lodges is an important sign of that commitment.

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The Master and Fellows of this college have not commissioned a tower for some decades, and we'd admit that we were somewhat nervous about the height of the tower that is part of the new library and auditorium building. We needn't have worried. It's a striking addition to the Cambridge skyline – one local councillor has already called it 'iconic' – but it combines that with a pleasing subtlety. From Grange Road and West Road you see glimpses of the



Photo: Shao

tower behind the roofline and amid the trees, and it's only in Ann's Court itself that you get the full experience with all the storeys and the clock and lantern. My colleague Sarah MacDonald also directs music at Ely Cathedral, and she has already been teased that she works at the Ship of the Fens and now its Lighthouse.

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The death of Prince Philip prompted us to look at photographs from the archive, some of which you'll see inside this magazine, and one showed him planting a tree in the college – seemingly by night. Just east of the chapel there is another tree planted by Princess Margaret, confirming our royal connections. When Prince Philip stayed in the Master's Lodge in Sir David Harrison's time, his room was the guest bedroom on the first floor. I'm wondering whether this may merit the Selwyn equivalent of a blue plaque?

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Last autumn I joined the board of the Cambridge University Boat Club. It's a new organisation bringing together the former men's and women's clubs and the lightweight, but its preoccupation remains the age-old one of how to beat Oxford. When we meet the other side, there is real tension: this is not a confected rivalry. Some big figures are involved, too. Sir John Bell, one of the creators of the Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccine, is a senior member of the OUBC and he has turned up for liaison meetings irrespective of the pressures of his day job. This year the first question was whether the race would be able to take place at all. There was the extra complication of the unsafe state of Hammersmith Bridge with the fear that it might collapse into the Thames as the crews passed underneath, which would not have been a good moment. I will admit that I thought the Great Ouse in the flatlands of Ely would be a poor alternative compared with our capital city, especially with nobody allowed to watch. But on the day of the races it looked rather beautiful in the Easter sunshine. Most important, of course, the Cambridge men's and women's crews both won. There has

been some speculation about whether home advantage was a factor, but we're eager to return to London again next year to prove that it's the Light Blue spirit and not the Ouse that makes the difference.

