

Selwyn

The magazine
for alumni and friends
of Selwyn College,
Cambridge



2019

Issue 26 Summer 2019





Editorial
Roger Mosey, *Master*

Diversity of background makes us stronger



Jeff Davis

We set ourselves high standards at Selwyn. Even so, it's a little intimidating to be writing the foreword to this year's magazine after the particularly positive response to the last edition. "I read it with enjoyment from cover to cover", said one alumnus; and countless others have said how much they value our publications among the range of ways in which we now communicate. So let me start by thanking all the college staff and contributors who have shaped what you're reading today.

If there's a thread running through the magazine this year it's about the way that Selwyn people make a difference in the world. You may well have heard me say that in these times of anxiety Cambridge is needed more than ever – with our rational and fact-based solutions to the problems around us. That encapsulates the approach of our graduate in geography Dominic Waughray, who deals with some of the most influential people on the planet at the World Economic Forum. He drives home to them, and here in the magazine, the message that our environment truly matters. We also hear from Katherine Mathieson, whose job it is at the British Science Association to increase the public's awareness of science as a force for good. As someone who studied the humanities, I have the greatest respect for what Cambridge scientists achieve – and it's good to know that Katherine is working to introduce research and ideas to the wider population.

It's also fascinating to read the article by Jack Connah, a more recent graduate, about his work in the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel. In a period when politics is in turmoil, the rule of law matters more than ever; and there's reassurance from him that there are calm Selwyn-trained legal brains being deployed to keep the country running.

We celebrate our commitment to the arts, too. This is a college that has produced award-winning actors and musicians and writers, and we mark in this edition the achievements of Uzma Hameed who is making a name for herself as a dramaturg in ballet with critical praise for the production of *Victoria* that she has created. We're also delighted to have a taster of our alumna

Viv Groskop's latest book, which encourages women to be more confident about speaking out.

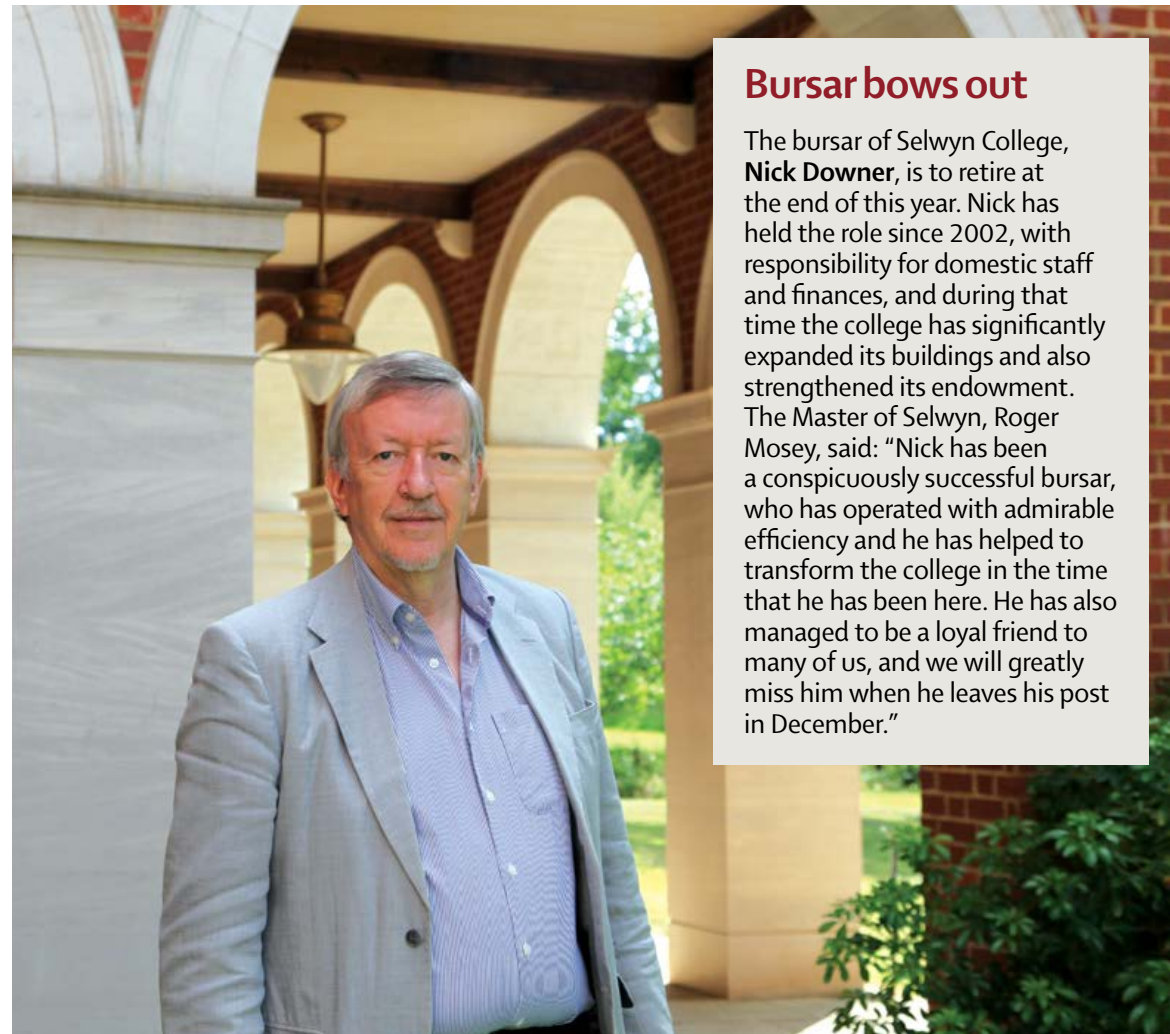
Then there are our Fellows. Three more are profiled, and what is striking is the diversity of their backgrounds. I hope David Smith will forgive me if I say he is quintessentially English, and much respected for his scholarship by generations of Selwyn students. By contrast, Dacia Viejo-Rose and Deepak Venkateshvaran are about as international as it is possible to be. Deepak's upbringing was quite something. The stories of all three Fellows give a clue to what makes Selwyn work as a modern community: we are home to people from across the world, and that reinforces our global ambitions. Diversity of background and of thought make us stronger.

Also to be found further on in these pages: the latest developments within the college. Recent visitors have been impressed by the new servery and bar, which give our students some of the best facilities in Cambridge. Our operations manager Chris Hurcomb runs through what we've been up to. And our new Human Resources manager Esiri Mac-Jaja reminds us that we need a great team of staff to make the college work to its full potential.

Finally, a few words of explanation about our cover photo. It was one of a series by the university sport service to show the way that sport is woven into university life – so they placed a lacrosse player into a Selwyn choir practice to produce this striking image. I like it because it really does capture the variety of life within the college; and we want that to apply to this magazine too. I very much hope you enjoy reading it.

Roger Mosey

News



Bursar bows out

The bursar of Selwyn College, **Nick Downer**, is to retire at the end of this year. Nick has held the role since 2002, with responsibility for domestic staff and finances, and during that time the college has significantly expanded its buildings and also strengthened its endowment. The Master of Selwyn, Roger Mosey, said: "Nick has been a conspicuously successful bursar, who has operated with admirable efficiency and he has helped to transform the college in the time that he has been here. He has also managed to be a loyal friend to many of us, and we will greatly miss him when he leaves his post in December."

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Lacrosse player, Selwyn College Chapel. For more images, see: www.sport.cam.ac.uk/sap

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Concerto competition

Chloe Allison (2012) is working towards a PhD in music – supported by funding from the college and the vice-chancellor's awards – and is also showing the breadth of music-making across Cambridge. Over the past year she has sung in a number of productions, including *Carmen* for the University Opera Society, and the Princess in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*. As a winner of the University Symphony Orchestra concerto competition, Chloe performed Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*. She then went on to tackle Mahler's *Der Abschied* with The Cambridge Mahler

Orchestra and a mezzo soprano solo for Stravinsky's *Les Noces* with the University Chamber Choir.

Chloe has given regular recitals around Cambridge for various music societies including Selwyn, as well as for the 2019 Cambridge Brahms Festival. She will be a participant this year on the Pembroke Lieder Scheme with her duet partner Adam McDonagh. We are very proud of Chloe's most recent achievement: she has been selected – after a complicated six month process – as a Making Music Selected Artist for the 2019-20 season.

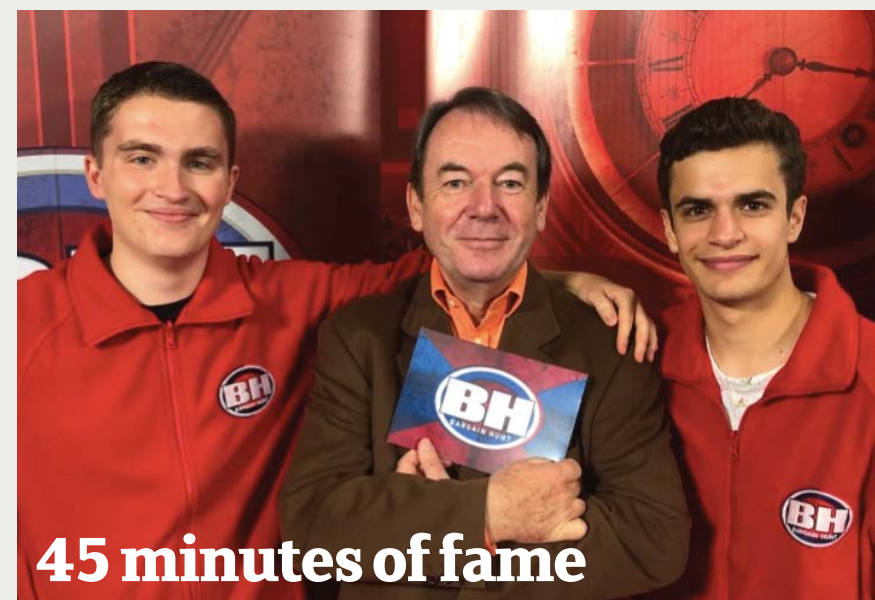


Centenarian Courtenay Lloyd (SE 1938)

On 1st May 2019 we wished 'Happy birthday' to alumnus. **Charles Courtenay Lloyd**, who came to the college in 1938 to study modern languages, and who we believe is our oldest living Selwynite at 100 years old. Courtenay Lloyd's studies here were interrupted by the Second World War, and he served with distinction in the armed forces before resuming at Selwyn and then going on to become a schoolteacher at Bradford Grammar School. Among the students he taught was Roger Mosey, now Master of the college.

Erin Bond, Development Manager from our alumni relations team, visited Courtenay at his home in Spain earlier this year. She shared with him some memories of Selwyn, including a print of the college. His daughter, Masha Lloyd said: "He was astonished when he heard someone from Selwyn was coming to see him. The visit made him very happy."

Courtenay remembers his friends from the 1938 matriculation photograph.



45 minutes of fame

Current undergraduate students **Harry Gibbins** and **Adam Shafiq**, (both 2016) were one of the teams on BBC One's *Bargain Hunt* in April this year. They travelled to Peterborough's East of England Showground to meet programme experts Nick Hall and Jonathan Pratt and presenter Eric Knowles. Both teams were given £300 and one hour to find their bargains. The red team emerged with a nest of three Edwardian tables, a 1910 silver dish, and an upcycled fire extinguisher lamp. A few weeks later, they followed up at the auction in Lichfield. "We recommend the *Bargain Hunt* experience to anyone looking for their 45 minutes of fame. We even got to keep the red fleeces."

Delving a little deeper to find out more about our academics and their lives at Selwyn, three more Fellows are profiled. Each has surprisingly different backgrounds. The second in a series of meeting the Fellows.

The Fellowship

Delving deeper into our Fellows’ lives

Dr Dacia Viejo-Rose

College Position:
Director of Studies in Archaeology
University Department:
Archaeology
University Position:
Lecturer in Archaeology
Subject: **Cultural Heritage and the Politics of the Past**
Research Interests: **Contemporary uses and understandings of cultural heritage especially in relation to violence and its long-term impacts.**

You have a truly international background... Tell us a little about where you lived in your early life. Mainly I grew up in Madrid, New York and Geneva but that’s not saying much. It was the Madrid of the end of Franco; my early memories include riding on my father’s shoulders in the first mass demonstrations in Spain. It was a Manhattan of the early 1980s and a favourite weekend activity of mine as a child was to go for walks with my parents in the village to see the punk scene there. Geneva has pretty much stayed the same! After that I moved around quite a bit before landing in Cambridge.

What was it that made you decide on an academic career? I never set out for an academic career, it just worked out this way. After each period of study I interned or worked:



at an NGO, the UN in Geneva, at an association protecting the rights of artists, at UNESCO in Paris, and for two cultural consultancies in London. You might say that I stumbled into it but that’s probably not quite right either; I do enjoy the different tempos of academic work, being able to switch gears regularly from teaching to research, from events planning to admissions, from marking to committee work.

People think of archaeology as being about Ancient Egypt and Pompeii. How much has that changed? Archaeology is a truly astounding field. Having studied international relations and politics, I first felt quite out of place pursuing a PhD in a Department of Archaeology. But after nearly 14 years it has grown on me. The methodological, temporal, and theoretical range of this field is what makes it stand out for me: from the micro-scale of Ancient DNA to major shifts in the planet’s climate, from the long-durée evolution of ideas and beliefs to our uses of the past today.

Why did you want to come to Cambridge? Cambridge is awe inspiring, so much so that when looking for a place to do my first degree I did not dare apply. It was working on a contract for UNESCO that I came here to interview someone at the McDonald Institute, towards the end of the conversation he turned the tables and asked what I was interested in and, on hearing my answer, immediately picked up the phone and called another person, who came down from his office to meet me. They both encouraged me to apply to do a PhD here. And that has always been my experience with Cambridge, the reason that I feel at home here: it is a place of open doors where people get genuinely excited about ideas.

What’s your view of Selwyn now you’ve been here for a while? When I was a graduate student at Clare Hall I used to use Selwyn as a short cut, it was my ‘secret garden’, an oasis in which I could exhale completely and feel a weight lifting. It still feels very much like that. When I come home I am still in slight disbelief at what an extraordinary bit of luck it is for me to be able to call Selwyn home.

Your four-year-old daughter Lyra is a familiar sight around college since you both live here – what does she make of college life? Lyra is not named after the character in the Pullman novels but as soon as I decided on that name I quickly read them to see what I was getting her into.

Needless to say I was charmed by the books and when we moved into Selwyn all the more so at the idea that she would be growing up in a Cambridge college. There is an African proverb “It takes a village to raise a child” and Selwyn is Lyra’s village: the Porters, gardeners, kitchen staff, students and other Fellows are all contributing in one way and another to her upbringing.

You’re about to take on an enhanced role at the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre. What will that entail? Heritage can be understood as an active, dynamic relationship between past, present, and future, formed through an on-going process of negotiation and reconstruction of what we choose to take from the past with us into the future. The Centre has been running for just over a year now and we are full of plans going forward. Next year I will be the Director of the Centre. This will be an exciting opportunity to both build on our current activities, an annual guest lecture and research symposium, and develop a series of new initiatives geared to engaging with researchers across the university and building working relations with the realms of practice and policy making. We are also currently talking about an incubator to support collaborations with industry and putting together a series of research projects.

How – if you ever get the chance – do you relax? Good question. Thankfully Lyra has imposed that elusive work-life balance on me in a way that nothing else could. Since she was a baby we have been going to the University Botanic Garden to relax and when the weather prevents that we have been known to play treasure hunt with coffee capsules in the Fellows’ Parlour – but don’t tell anyone.

Dr David Smith (SE 1982)

College Position:
Tutor for Graduate Students, Director of Studies in History
University Department:
Faculty of History
Subject: **History**
Research Interests: **British political, constitutional and legal history in the early modern period, especially in the seventeenth century. Current major interests include the history of Parliament, the nature of monarchy and Royalism, and the career of Oliver Cromwell.**



“I see myself very much as a teacher first and a researcher second.”

Where did you grow up? I was born in London, but we moved to Eastbourne when I was eight and that was where I had most of my schooling, until I came up to Selwyn in October 1982.

You’re unique among the people we’ve featured so far in that you were at Selwyn as an undergraduate. Did it feel like a different place in the 1980s? Certainly when I arrived I found that Selwyn was a very friendly college, and that has remained true ever since. It’s become a cliché, but I think the college does have a very strong sense of community and relations between Fellows, staff and students are particularly good here. Academically, the standards have improved considerably and the college is more academically focused now than it was then, but this has been achieved without sacrificing the quality of the community or the richness of extra-curricular activities as well.

When you came here as a student, did you have any inkling that you wanted to become an academic? From an early age I had wanted to become a schoolteacher: I taught in a school in my ‘gap’ year and I then did

a PGCE immediately after my BA. But the more I got into historical research the more I enjoyed it, and so I applied to teach at university level rather than school level. I have written several books for A-level History students, and I see myself very much as a teacher first and a researcher second. Indeed, I don’t think I could have written my books without the direct experience of teaching undergraduates and postgraduates. I relish the teaching aspects of the job not only within Selwyn and the History Faculty but also through my strong connections with the Institute of Continuing Education at Madingley Hall.

You’ve covered many topics, but you keep coming back to Cromwell – what is so fascinating about him? Cromwell remains a unique figure in British history. He was the only republican Head of State (so far) in our history, and he has always been an extraordinarily controversial figure. Some people regard him as a hero, a champion of liberty who defeated royal tyranny and helped this country to progress towards parliamentary democracy. Others see him as a villain, a tyrant and a dictator, driven by his own ambition and love of power. He was certainly someone of strong convictions and great determination, and I find it fascinating to see how he tried to translate his ideals into some kind of reality once he was in power. His letters and speeches contain both exhilaration and despair, and his story is of great interest at a human as well as a political level.

And you yourself manage to keep a foot in both Cromwellian and Royal camps? I have published books about Royalists and Royalism as well as about Cromwell and Parliamentarians. I am one of the few people who is a life member of both the Cromwell Association and the Society of King Charles the Martyr – a fact that seems to cause some disquiet to members of each society whenever I reveal it to members of the other society! But keeping a foot in both camps is a very good way to remind myself of how the history of seventeenth-century England continues to inspire very strong feelings, and to remember that the Brexit debate is not the first time that this country has been deeply divided!

What’s your favourite way of winding down? Watching old movies and listening to classical music (not at the same time!) I particularly enjoy *Kind Hearts and Coronets* – and for composers I’d have to say Elgar and Mahler.

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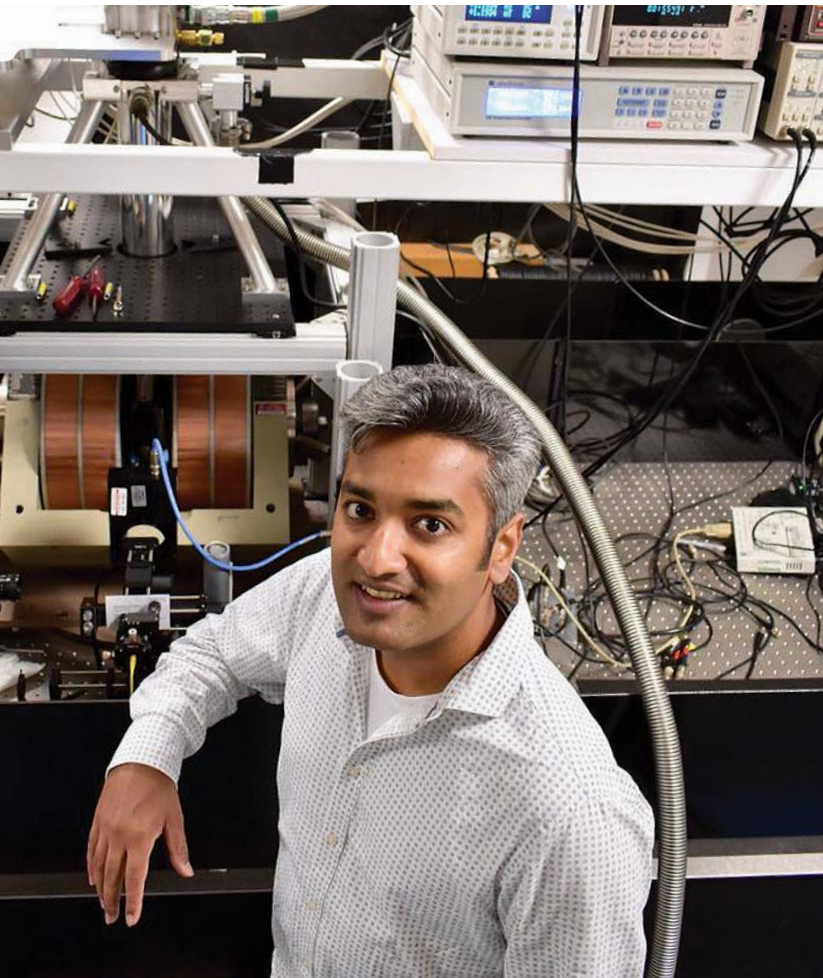
Dr Deepak Venkateshvaran

College Position: Fellow and Director of Studies in Physics
University Department: Cavendish Laboratory
University Position: European Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow
Subject: Physics
Research Interests: Understanding the fundamental properties of organic semi-conducting polymers for their use in novel electronic devices

Where did you grow up?
I grew up in the port city of Lagos in Nigeria, West Africa. I spent my first ten years there, after which I continued my education at one of South India’s boarding schools founded on the ‘Gurukula’ system of ancient India. It was an austere educational establishment based on Indian tradition, culture and philosophy. A system that believed the purpose of education was not merely to prepare individuals for careers, but rather, to inspire in them traits of selfless service to society. Life here was monastic. Spartan. Each day started at 5am, with a regiment of meditation, yoga, sports, academic work, devotional singing and numerous opportunities for community service. I lived this life for over a decade, all the way to the end of my Masters degree.

When you were at school, did you have any ambition then to follow an academic career at a global university?
I began gaining a deeper interest in physics during my undergraduate and postgraduate days at the Indian ashram I studied at. To further this interest, I subsequently attended the Indian Institute of Technology, an institution that had an acceptance rate of under 1% on their advanced Masters programme in physics. It was here that I genuinely formalised my interest and my ambition to pursue an academic career in physics. It tremendously helped that being an academic is less of a job and more of a lifestyle.

How did you end up at Cambridge?
Cambridge, joining the dots, was a consequence of a series of proactive career choices. After my studies in India, I accepted an opportunity to work at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities close to Munich in Germany for a couple of years. I used this stint to



“Selwyn has a tremendously welcoming cohort of Fellows and staff.”

build up a publication record that I believed would help me strengthen my applications for PhD positions at respected research institutions. It was from Munich that I was given the opportunity to come to Cambridge on a fully funded scholarship to pursue my PhD, a chance I remain very grateful for.

You’ve been a Fellow at Selwyn for less than a year – but what are your impressions of the college?
Selwyn has a tremendously welcoming cohort of Fellows and staff. From day one of coming here, I felt part of an extended family and I continue to learn in ways both subtle and significant from the experience of my colleagues and through the college responsibilities I am tasked with.

Your academic field sounds pretty complex to non-scientists. Can you explain in 100 words what it is and why it matters?
I’m an experimental physicist with a speciality in fabricating functional polymer-based devices on small length scales of a few hundred nanometres (a nanometre is a millionth of a millimetre, so small that we need special electron microscopes to image them).

Using these prototype devices, I attempt to understand the properties of organic polymers and how they might perform at two specific tasks; 1) How well they convert waste heat into re-usable energy, and 2) Whether they are able to transport information without energy loss. In short, my work attempts to improve the overall efficiency of energy usage in electronic gadgets.

How keen are you that the range of people studying physics is as broad and diverse as possible?
Physics is genuinely an interesting subject to study, but there exists a notion in society that it is very hard. So, whenever I teach different topics in physics to different audiences, I attempt to draw parallels with everyday experience to make the subject easier to relate to. I believe I should use my current position within college Outreach and Access to make both prospective and current students of all backgrounds, genders and social demographics appreciate the pleasures that studying physics can bring.

You have a great interest in music... tell us about the tabla!
The tabla has been a passion of mine for over 20 years. It is an Indian percussion instrument that takes commitment, devotion and many years to master. The instrument itself is one of few drums on the planet that has both a well-defined tone as well as a language that we players need to learn. I find that playing the tabla is meditative and very personally satisfying so I continue to learn and compose new rhythmic phrases on a regular basis.

If you ever get the chance, what’s your favourite way of winding down?
How and when we organise our down time very much depends on our personalities, I think. Considering that I can get very absorbed in what I do, I intersperse intense periods of work that demand my undivided attention with durations when I switch off completely. On a weekly basis, this might take the shape of a sporting activity, cooking and/or reading. On a quarterly basis, city breaks and hiking help me renew myself.

Uzma Hameed (SE 1986)
Victoria
by Northern Ballet
Histories in the making

Selwyn alumna, Uzma Hameed, is currently working as Dramaturg on Northern Ballet’s *Victoria*. Created for this year’s bicentenary of Queen Victoria’s birth, the production is currently touring nationally and in cinemas on June 25th. Here, she reveals a little of what was involved in co-creating the scenario with choreographer, Cathy Marston.
“Writing the scenario for Northern Ballet’s new production *Victoria*, choreographer Cathy Marston and I were very conscious that, not only were we looking at the life of Britain’s second longest-reigning monarch from a vantage point of two hundred years after her birth, but that the scheduling of the ballet’s premiere in March 2019 would find it coinciding with Brexit. It felt important to acknowledge in our concept the idea of history and historicizing; how our view of the past is both shaped and occluded by the narratives constructed around it.
It was exciting then to discover from our research that the individual



who edited and transcribed the one hundred and twenty-two books of *Victoria*’s personal diary, expurgating approximately 11 books worth of material and burning the originals as she went, was none other than the queen’s youngest and most devoted daughter, Beatrice. We realised that in this particular story, history existed not only as the curated version of a period but also as the relationship between one generation and another and as the complex bond between mothers and daughters.
In the ballet, as Beatrice engages with the past through *Victoria*’s diaries, she discovers a different view both of the many unquestioning years she has spent in the service of her demanding mother and of her own life’s purpose. Her journey, as one reviewer succinctly identified, is ‘ultimately as much about reconciling oneself to the past as rewriting it.’ These themes of rewriting and reconciling are, it seems, part of the challenge of the current moment in our national history too.”



Photographs by kind permission Phil Garrett/Emma Kaulby/Northern Ballet

Our common future

There's never been a better time to work on environmental issues says **Dominic Waughray** (SE 1989) Managing Director of the World Economic Forum.

For years big environmental problems were issues for governments, international organisations and large NGOs to solve. We deferred to their leadership for action and delivery.

We were basically taught this in my undergraduate degree. We studied the famous book *Our Common Future*, published in 1987, just a couple of years before I matriculated. It proposed that a mixture of governments, international institutions, overseas aid and NGOs could fix things. With this hopeful book on the desk and the Berlin Wall coming down around us, it did indeed feel back in 1989 like the *End of History*.

Then, as we took our finals in early summer 1992, the Rio Earth Summit happened. This big meeting brought

the governments of the world together to agree on pathways and protocols to deliver *Our Common Future*. At the Earth Summit, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was born, as was the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and several other global arrangements for managing our environment.

But here's the bad news. Despite these historic efforts, close to 30 years on greenhouse gas emissions are rising, scientists' extreme weather predictions are being realised, fish stocks are declining, forests and natural habitats are being destroyed, plastic pollution is out of control, and researchers warn that an 'annihilation' of wildlife has started a human-driven sixth mass extinction.



Left: Dominic Waughray in Jakarta earlier this year, at the launch of WEF's Global Plastic Action Alliance, with the Government of Indonesia.

"It takes unprecedented levels of collaboration and innovation... to trigger the big systemic change required to fix this mess."

Our Common Future hasn't really turned out as planned. Since 1992 economic acceleration has outpaced the ability of environment ministers to protect the planet. Economic development trumped environmental protection for the baby boomers. It also thwarted the efforts of us environmentalists in Generation X, at least for the first stages of our careers in the mid-1990s and 2000s. Perhaps understandably, the economy versus the environment was viewed by the 'grown-ups' as a zero-sum game: we could not both grow and protect. Nature could bounce back, it was thought: once society got richer, it could clean things up. We were even taught that in economics. I am pleased to say that this bias is now being put firmly in the dustbin of history. In the last few years, our understanding about the fragility and interconnectedness of earth systems has increased exponentially. New scientific and technological breakthroughs have shown that our actions could trigger a hard exit from the Holocene – the epoch that over the last 12,000 years or so has provided the 'goldilocks' environmental conditions that enabled civilisation to flourish. Science has concluded that unless we change course by 2030 we will be locked onto this path, with no way back to normal. Bumpier transatlantic flights due to a perturbed jet stream will just be the start of it.

This changes the game. The security of the global environmental system – our climate, our ocean, and our biosphere – has become an existential issue. Its collapse destroys prospects of continual social and economic progress. No wonder school children are protesting. And here's the good news. Our deeper awareness of the global environmental crisis we are in is inspiring a radical new drive for cooperation. Civil society, labour leaders, company CEOs and various governments are now joining together to bind business, communities and policy makers into new forms of common environmental action. This public-private repositioning is blowing away the old environment versus economy dichotomy. Instead, it is helping ministers to marry targets for protecting the Earth with ones for boosting economies – and helping companies turn the risks of environmental failure into new opportunities for smart, clean industrial production. It is rapidly mainstreaming once-niche environmental, social and governance issues into a core determinant of success for firms and investors. What is going on? First, it is now clear to everyone in the field – including those in governments, NGOs and international organisations –



Shutterstock

that it takes unprecedented levels of collaboration and innovation, involving many other players like progressive business and investors, to trigger the big, systemic change required to fix this mess. Governments cannot do this alone; after years of unwillingness, international environmental diplomats have thrown their doors open for help. Second, a sudden rise in technological and scientific capability – what the World Economic Forum terms the Fourth Industrial Revolution – is driving down the cost of such collaboration and creating an explosive potential for transparency and access to information. Earth scientists can measure and model more, and environmental campaigners, companies, investors – and the public – can better track environmental deterioration or improvement. Lastly, students and the young – the voters, citizens and consumers of tomorrow – are making themselves felt. Told that we have a decade or so to fix this problem – but with 40 or 50 years to live after that – they are increasingly making different demands on politics and economics. This combination of awakenings is triggering widespread change in the environmental sector, much more

Below: Dominic was honoured to be invited as one of four Cambridge University Geography alumni to join a panel to remark and reflect upon the importance of Cambridge Geography at its special Tripos centenary celebration event (1919-2019) held at the Royal Geographic Society in April this year, attended by over 400 Cambridge Geography staff and students past and present.

profoundly, I would argue, than *Our Common Future* ever managed. A systems change is underway. Engaging in such public-private collaborations makes core business sense for companies who wish to lead. Working with NGOs, scientists and governments – and other companies – can help a corporation to deliver and market scalable sustainable solutions, while crowding out those seeking to profit from bad environmental practice. Working together enables everyone to achieve more – more quickly and at greater scale – than if each worked alone.



The result: the environmental sector is right now in a period of creative destruction and high innovation. The smartest minds are being drawn into the financial and purpose-driven rewards on offer. Sustainable, public-private innovation and purpose driven economics is starting to trump the dusty dogma of sustainable development linked to international public sector agency programmes and overseas aid. These are exciting times. I am privileged to have been a part of this journey and I am proud that the World Economic Forum as the international organisation for public-private cooperation is positioned at the forefront of building such platforms for new forms of global cooperation on environment and innovation. Let me know if you'd like to join this effort. Combined, I have no doubt our global Selwyn alumni network, and all the amazing influence it can corral, could be a powerful force to add to this mix. What a chance to make a real difference!

I can be contacted by email: dominic.waughray@weforum.org



Katherine Mathieson (SE 1993) read Natural Sciences (Biology) at Selwyn College. She is now chief executive for the British Science Association. In November last year, Katherine presented at the Oxford & Cambridge Club as part of our London lecture series.

More natural science

‘NatSci’ – it carries a particular reputation, doesn’t it? Geeks, experts, brainboxes, nerds. It conjures up a clear picture. I remember telling fellow students in Freshers Week that I was studying history instead. Maybe you were a NatSci, or maybe you spent your time at Selwyn trying to avoid the NatScis? Either way, there was a sense that you’re either a full-blown science fan or you have no interest in science at all. More than 20 years after leaving Selwyn, I’m still trying to do something about society’s polarisation around science.

The British Science Association (BSA) is a charity seeking to transform people’s relationship with science. I joined the organisation ten years ago and became its chief executive in August 2016.

The organisation has had several phases of evolution during its almost 200-year history. Founded in 1831, as a forum “to promote the intercourse of the cultivators of science with one another, and with foreign philosophers” (William Vernon Harcourt), the association has been at the forefront of developing scientific literature, public engagement and science communication. We are no longer an association for members to cater for scientists and member enthusiasts, and instead represent the public’s relationship with science, in particular, people who are not currently engaged in science. We care about making society a better place and we believe that science is a key part of this process.



At Hull Minster, the British Science Association worked with the *Museum of the Moon*, an exhibition that has toured the world and was recently on display at Ely Cathedral.

Society’s biggest challenges and opportunities aren’t the concern of science alone. Areas such as climate, medicine, transport and technology are often seen as the domain of science – but each requires significant debate, action and application from the rest of society. They belong to and affect us all.

“Our vision is to see a world where science is at the heart of culture.”

If your local surroundings are going to be used for fracking, or you fall ill and need to make difficult decisions about care pathways, we want you to understand what this means and what the impact may be, good or bad. We want to give people the confidence and skills to source reputable, balanced information,

which they can examine and question, and if necessary, act upon in an appropriate and effective way.

In essence, science is not just for scientists. Our vision is to see a world where science is at the heart of culture; not just a subject studied at school, but a way of thinking and approaching the world. We want to take science out of its cultural ghetto.

The breadth of science is much broader than people sometimes realise: from astronomy to zoology, economics to social sciences, as well as maths, technology, engineering – we define all of these as science. Many people are already engaged with science, without necessarily realising or identifying with it.

But on top of this, we want science to be accessible to everyone. Not simply for the pure joy of finding things out, although of course we believe science is inherently fascinating, but we also believe that by unlocking the potential of a more diverse group of people, we increase our ability to tackle some of the world’s most intractable challenges and shape our future for the better.

If you care about giving society the best shot at solving our most important and wide-reaching problems, then we invite you to partner with us. We need people from all walks of life and backgrounds to be involved, from both science and non-science organisations. Find out more at: www.britishsienceassociation.org

From Syria to Selwyn

Hiba Salem (SE 2015) talks about her journey from Syria to Selwyn – and her research among refugee communities in Lebanon.

Coming from another ancient city, Damascus, I studied and lived in Syria until I was accepted in 2014 to study for an MPhil in Educational Research, which was supported by the Said Foundation, before coming to Selwyn to study for a PhD. At that time I was awarded a scholarship from the Queen Rania Foundation and the Cambridge Trust to allow me to complete my PhD here.

My family and I were living in Damascus during the first three years of the war. Our lives were altered beyond recognition within a few months. Our home changed so violently and so rapidly. The phrase ‘a lost generation’, hit home hard – a term used to characterise the millions of Syrian children who would grow up with very little or no education whatsoever. It was devastating to know that this would be written into Syria’s future. While I always wanted to study for a postgraduate degree in Education, it was during those years that I became certain of what I wanted to work on.

My research focused on the well-being and experiences of Syrian refugee children enrolled in public schools in Jordan, using innovative visual methods to engage their own interpretations of their schools. The impetus behind my research stemmed from the high dropout rates of refugee students in Jordanian schools. Specifically, my research works to understand how the students’ educational experiences in Jordan – such as being segregated from their

Jordanian peers – impact their sense of well-being, feelings about the future, and their own perceived likelihood of dropping out of school.

One of the most challenging issues faced today is the staggering number of refugees across the globe. Experiences of refugees are often under-represented despite decisions being made on their behalf daily. When decision-makers speak of the struggle to provide refugees with quality education, we ultimately know very little about their experiences and what we can do to improve their well-being. I hope that my research shows the importance of individual voices and contexts. I hope that my future research will encourage the inclusion of the voices of refugee students in assessment and policy-making processes.

My research findings have been presented at conferences and in papers and have already been influential with policy makers and other researchers. Most significantly, I have worked closely with the Queen Rania Foundation to help Jordan meet the challenges of educating the refugee children it hosts. And my work formed part of the planning for the Syria London Conference in 2016. I have also made important contributions to the field of education by developing innovative arts methods. Students have said how much



In April 2018 Hiba Salem (right) was recognised with a major award from the Said Foundation for her research project. Selwyn College is incredibly proud of Hiba’s work and achievements.

they have valued the way these methods have enabled their voices to be heard. Most recently I have released a Cambridge University TEDx talk, and this can be accessed and viewed on YouTube. Search for ‘Living Together Despite Borders, Hiba Salem’ or go direct to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYwBmCpaUY.

Being able to study in this environment at Selwyn has had a huge influence in my experience of Cambridge. Selwyn has a fantastic community spirit and this is one of my favourite things about studying here. It is an incredibly colourful community made up of so many interesting and genuine people from all over the world. Being away from home has been made easier by the friends I have made through the MCR. I feel so very fortunate to be here.

Hiba is one of a growing number of graduate students at Selwyn who have been supported by the Cambridge Trust, which works in partnership with many organisations across the world to help outstanding students study at Cambridge.

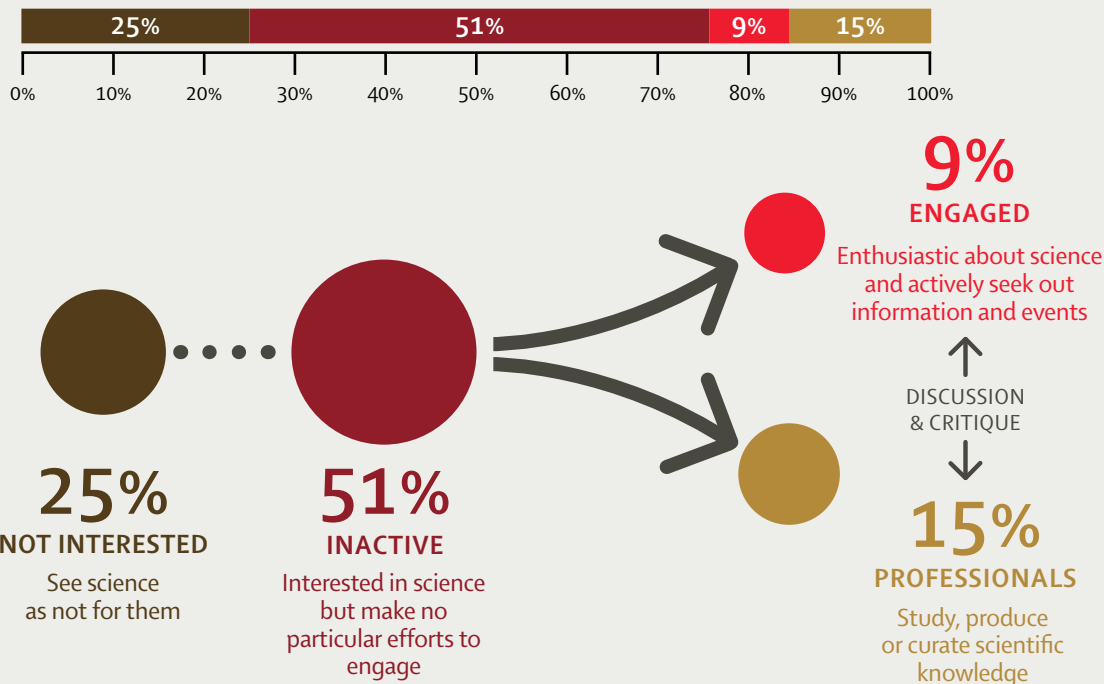
BSA’s Three Year Plan

We are in the middle of our current three-year business plan, based on a bold and exciting goal: **to transform the relationship that four million people have with science by 2020.** To get a better understanding of the public’s relationship with science, we use an audience segmentation map, which helps us mould our work for different audiences and check new ideas against our aims. It’s split into four groups: ‘Professionals’, ‘Engaged’, ‘Inactive’, and ‘Not interested’.

We appreciate this is a simple model, but it means we can make our mission tangible and measurable. Currently, the ‘Not interested’ and ‘Inactive’ groups make up three quarters of the UK population, or roughly, 49 million people. By 2020, we want to see four million of these people move to the ‘Engaged’ or ‘Professional’ groups. And, crucially, we want this group to be diverse and over-representative of currently under-served groups. This is an ambitious target, but we don’t seek to achieve it alone.



UK Adults 16+ by zone (% of total)



Source: King’s College London ‘Culture Tracker’ 2016, which questioned a representative sample of UK adults about their relationship with science.

My word is law



Jack Connah (SE 2004) read Law at Selwyn and is now a member of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel specialising in drafting legislation.

My word is law – or at least it might be, after it has been scrutinised, prodded and pulled apart by a small army of civil servants, stakeholders, MPs and Members of the House of Lords and then approved by both Houses of Parliament.

I’m a member of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (OPC) – a body of around 60 lawyers (known as parliamentary counsel) who specialise in drafting legislation. Part of the Cabinet Office, we’re responsible for drafting primary legislation for the UK Government. This year OPC is celebrating its 150th anniversary, having been established in 1869 as an experiment to improve the quality of legislation.

Our longevity hopefully indicates that the experiment has been a success. But few people outside of the Government have heard of OPC. In fact, even though I read Law at Selwyn I never gave much thought to who actually wrote the laws I was studying or how those laws were made. They were just words on a page to be interpreted, applied and (sometimes) criticised.

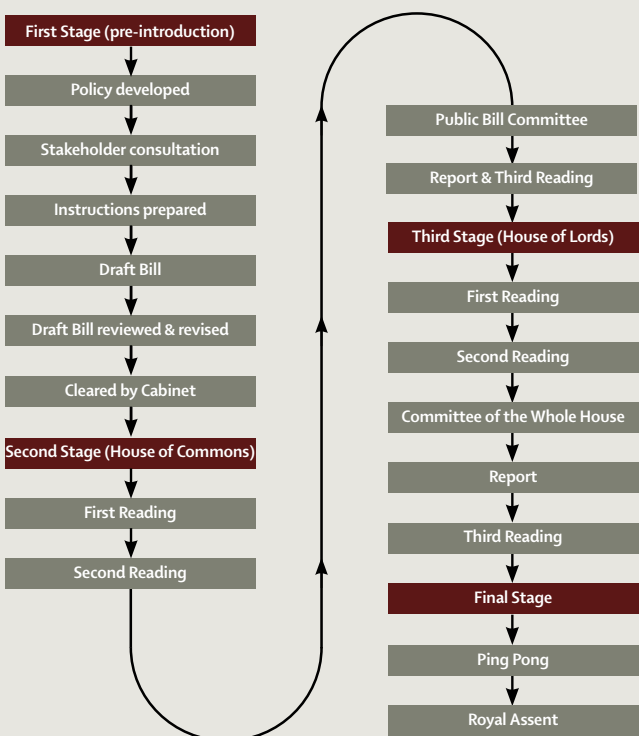
There’s a saying that law and sausages are two things you don’t want to see being made. I can’t speak to sausages, but now that I’m a part of the law-making process I’ve come to realise that knowing how laws are made is actually crucial to understanding why they’re written as they are and also helpful when it comes to interpreting them.

I first came across OPC after I graduated, when I was working at the Law Commission (a non-departmental public body tasked with law reform). After studying for an LLM, I spent several years

Below: Parliamentary Archives – thousands of carefully rolled parchment scrolls, representing every Act of Parliament passed – stored and available to view by the public.



The legislative process – taking a Bill through Parliament



practising as a barrister at Francis Taylor Building (a chambers specialising in environmental and planning law). But realising that litigation wasn’t for me, when I saw that OPC were recruiting I didn’t hesitate to apply and was fortunate to join in February 2017.

The job is challenging but also incredibly rewarding. Starting out with nothing more than a blinking cursor on a blank page and a set of instructions from a department for a new piece of legislation is daunting, and drafting even what looks to be the most straightforward of provision takes time, concentration and real attention to detail. And the chances are that I won’t get it right first time – most provisions will go through several iterations. Constructive criticism is not only welcome but encouraged (better to find out something’s wrong before it gets enacted!). But rising to the challenge and crafting new laws is immensely satisfying. Nobody joins the office as a perfect drafter (and, like me, most won’t have any drafting experience at all), so OPC runs a continuous training programme for new recruits. When starting out, new drafters work closely with a senior drafter and may be given discrete parts of Bills to work on which they’ll then discuss in detail, tweaking and revisiting as they go. No-one in OPC ever stops learning.

Some people are surprised to hear of the variety involved in the work. I’ve worked on topics ranging from data protection to the armed forces, and from domestic violence to railway licensing. That’s because parliamentary counsel are specialists in drafting, not specialists in certain areas of law. But not only does working for OPC involve drafting across all areas of law, it also involves working on different types of laws, meeting with departments, undertaking advisory work, liaising with the Parliamentary authorities, getting to grips with the sometimes arcane details of Parliamentary procedure and drafting amendments to legislation passing through Parliament. Often I’ll be working on multiple projects at the same time, all about different things, at different stages and running to different timetables.

Sometimes things can be taken out of our hands. Once a Bill is introduced into Parliament, Parliament can vote to amend it, or even halt it in its tracks. Opposition or backbench amendments that aren’t supported by the Government can be made to a Bill. And some Bills start life as Private Members’ Bills – Bills that aren’t introduced by the Government. They may be drafted by people with little or no drafting experience.

And then of course there’s also Brexit. Now is a fascinating, and fast-paced, time to be part of OPC. It’s exciting to be working at the business end of projects being discussed in the media. The sheer amount of legislation that has been needed to get the country ready for life outside of the EU has been a challenge, but it’s one that I think OPC and the civil service have met – our statute book looks in good shape for whatever happens next.

Writing laws is an awesome responsibility and one that everyone at OPC and in the wider civil service takes incredibly seriously. So I like to think that, whatever your views on sausages, you can have confidence in the making of our laws.

The human touch

Selwyn employs more than 100 staff who keep the college running smoothly 365 days of the year. Making sure that the college is an efficient and rewarding place to work is one of the tasks for Selwyn’s first full time HR Manager.



Esiri Mac-Jaja

“I feel lucky to be a part of the college and excited to carry out my duties, regardless of the unavoidable challenges ahead.”

talent management and strengthening the organisation’s culture. The stronger the culture, the more likely that employees will be happy in their job. Selwyn, in common with many similar bodies, has not yet fully explored the use of technology to help with decision-making in HR. Human Resource professionals increasingly need access to the widest possible range of data, and they use their skills to interpret the results.

But Esiri notes that we cannot rely solely on this method, because we have to take care not to lose the ‘Human’ element in Human Resources Management. As in most things in life, a healthy balance is essential.

At the time of writing (May 2019), one of the major HR challenges in the present climate is Brexit. The college is supporting its existing EU workers, and it is proud of the many nationalities in its workforce, but the future employment regime remains unclear. Esiri has her work cut out. She needs to plan for the effect this will have on recruitment and focus on retention, but she remains optimistic: “Selwyn staff have been welcoming and open to the opportunities that the role of a HR Manager could bring. I feel lucky to be a part of the college and excited to carry out my duties, regardless of the challenges ahead.”



Cambridge's eye in the sky

The first tranche of 1,500 images from the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photography has recently been made available online. The collection of almost 500,000 images is the result of airborne survey campaigns which were started in 1947 by the pioneering Selwyn Fellow and Vice-Master **J K S St Joseph** (SE 1931) and who remained the driving force behind the expansion of the collection until his retirement as Director of Aerial Photography in 1980.

Above:
Selwyn College, Cambridge,
May 1964.

The online catalogue can be accessed
at www.cambridgeairphotos.com



Kenneth Sinclair St Joseph was a British archaeologist, geologist and Royal Air Force veteran who pioneered the use of aerial photography as a method of archaeological research in Britain and Ireland. Under St Joseph's lead – and with his genius at interpreting photographs – it had astonishing success in the development of modern geology, soil science, geography; but especially in archaeology, from prehistoric to medieval: and above all, the archaeology of Roman Britain.

In 1945, St Joseph persuaded the university to create a department of aerial photography. Initially the RAF helped fund the work, taking the photographs on their routine flights, but eventually became unwilling to continue this programme. The university authorities hired an aircraft at first, then subsequently purchased a Cessna Skymaster in 1965 which remained in use for forty years.

Virtually the whole of Britain has been covered. Some of the uses of the images include: archaeology, geology, social history, law (land/border disputes), environmental issues (coastal erosion), planning as well as general interest.

The collection was saved from disposal by a project using the proceeds from the sale of the aeroplane and associated equipment. The ambitious vision is for the long-term digitisation of the entire collection of half a million images, and linking them to state-of-the-art online mapping technologies. It is now possible to browse the catalogue with over 450,000 clickable locations; search by image caption; by themes; by geographical area; and under the headings of coast, ancient Britain, transport networks, castles and stately homes, docklands and the post-industrial north.

The Cambridge Digital Library consists of more than 1,500 high resolution images showing exactly where and when a photograph was taken. The images are openly available without the need for login or subscription. As more content is added, users will be able to navigate a huge variety of images from this fantastic archive in extreme detail, and we are sure that the collection will be of interest to a very wide audience in academia, interested amateurs and the general public.

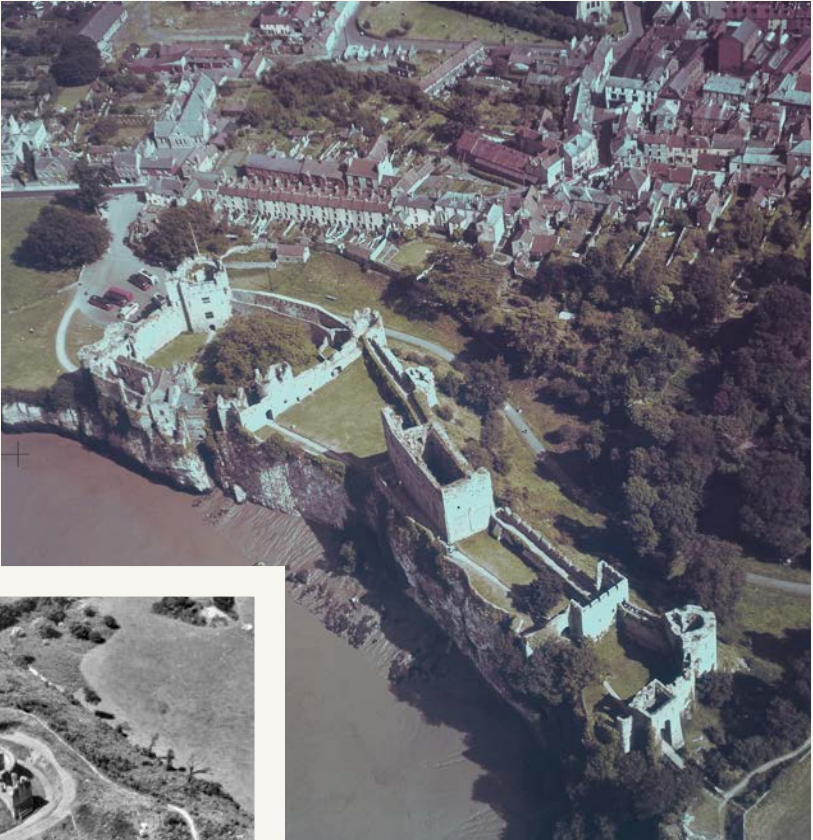


Top left:
The St Germans viaduct
over the River Tiddy,
Cornwall, June 1949.

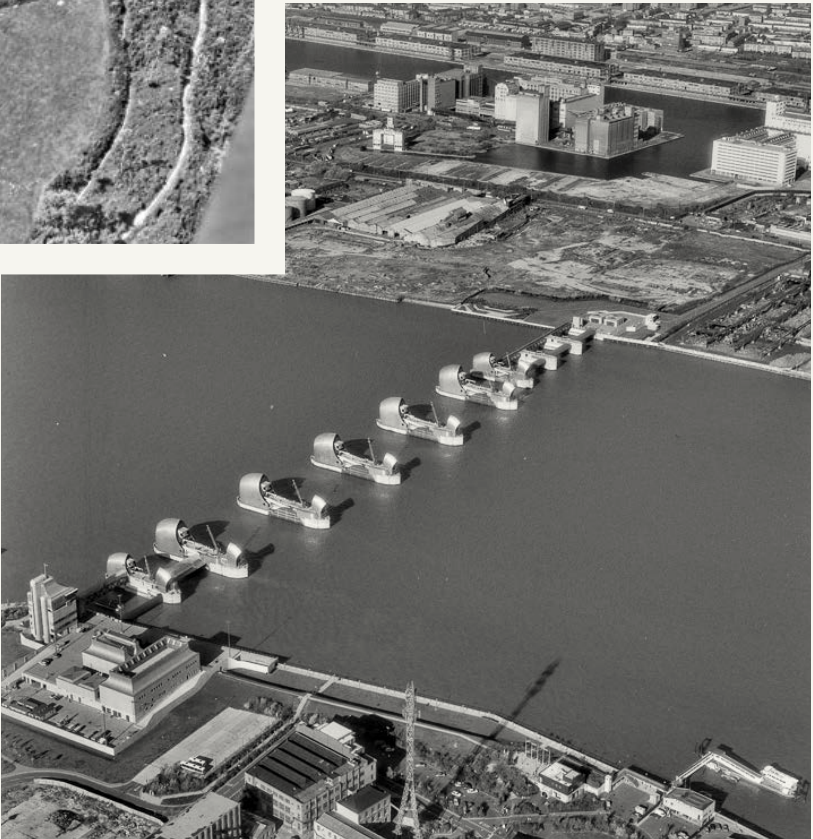
Bottom left:
River Thames and City of
London panorama, west
from Tower Bridge, Octo-
ber 1986.



Middle inset:
Restormel Castle lies by
the River Fowey near
Lostwithiel in Cornwall,
June 1949.



Top right:
Chepstow Castle,
Monmouth, January 1974.



Bottom right:
Thames Barrier at
Woolwich Reach, October
1980.



Women and the art of brilliant speaking

Claire Butler
(SE 2017)
MCR President
2019-2020

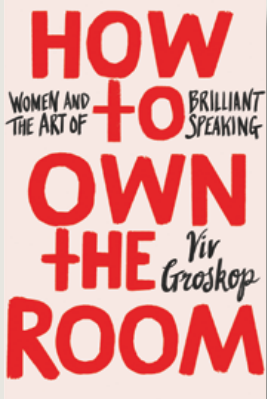


“Being the president of the MCR has put me in numerous situations where I have had to give speeches and/or presentations. As I am a quite outgoing person who has done several presentations throughout my Biomedical sciences degree and PhD, this has given me more confidence to do this.”

Writer and comedian Viv Groskop (SE 1991) encourages women everywhere (and a few men) through her new book and podcast series about women and brilliant speaking.

When I was at Selwyn, it was not so much necessary to own the room as to own the Diamond. This was the space where lots of us got to strut our stuff as public speakers or performers doing sketch shows, theatre and debating. Alongside – for those of us who matriculated in 1991 – substandard *Saturday Night Fever* moves at Freaky Deaky. I was studying languages – French and Russian – and I had vague plans to work as a journalist. But the pie-in-the-sky career I had dreamt of as a child – as a performer or a comedian – was something I could dabble in at Cambridge. I was one quarter of the short-lived Selwyn sketch group Juicy, Fruity, Fresh n’ Cheap (yes, I was Cheap), who did a show where Stephen Fry was the compère. Exciting, yes. But I had no idea how you turn that into real work. Fast forward 25 years and I have five Edinburgh Fringe solo shows under my belt and stints as the host of book tours for Graham Norton and Jennifer Saunders. After years of hiding safely behind the screen as a writer, I only found the guts to do it for real in my late thirties. The catalyst? Realising I was telling my three children to do what they wanted with their lives and knowing that I hadn’t really lived up to that advice myself.

I had to learn fast as a performer, learning to fail publicly, figuring out how to style out situations where I was clueless, once hosting BBC Radio 4’s *Front Row* in front of a live Edinburgh audience with broken headphones where I just had to guess when to close the show. I kept notes of every failed moment, every breakthrough, everything I wished I’d known. This, plus analysis of the great women speakers of the past 50 years, turned into *How to Own the Room: Women and the Art of Brilliant Speaking*, which is both a best-selling book and Top 10 iTunes podcast. My regret? That Theresa May didn’t find out about this resource. She’s clearly got the Freaky Deaky side of things nailed. Owning the room? Not so much.



How to Own the Room Women and the Art of Brilliant Speaking



The podcast, featuring interviews with guests such as Nigella Lawson, Mary Portas and Professor Mary Beard, is available on iTunes.



Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE
CEO of Stemettes.
Public speaker and campaigner for getting more women into STEM subjects and industries.



“What’s the point? What are you trying to achieve? What do you want those people to feel? What do you want them to do? What’s the call to action? Take your audience on a journey and make the point land.”



Professor Mary Beard
Professor of Classics and a Fellow of Newnham College, author and regular contributor to radio and television.



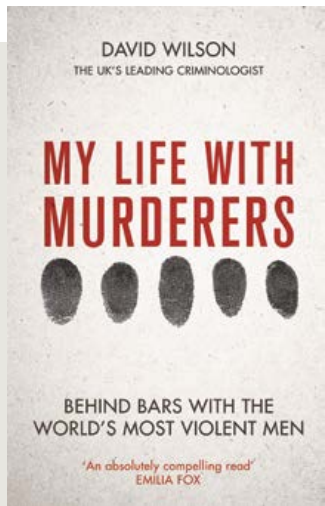
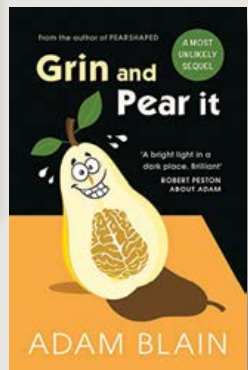
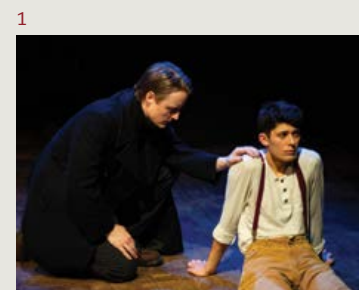
“You’ve got to put yourself in the position of those people that are going to listen to you. Why are you going to get them, and how are you going to get them to pay attention to what you have to say?”

A short extract from ‘How to own the room’

Happy high status is a state of mind that is not easy to achieve. Not even Michelle Obama just dropped naturally into it. In the early days of Barack Obama’s life as a United States senator in 2005, two years before he announced his candidacy for the presidency, Michelle Obama rolled her eyes at a reporter at an event and said, ‘Maybe one day he will do something to warrant all this.’ That is not a happy high status thing to say. It’s a very passive-aggressive thing to say. (Though it’s also funny. Kudos.) But as Michelle Obama reduced her job as a hospitals executive to one day a week while her husband pounded the campaign trail, she began to learn how to match up to the status of First Lady and to stop saying things that would undercut her or her husband’s status. She learned to be comfortable – happy – with the status. This meant that when she came to speak, she could do so from the heart and not be afraid of being exposed in any way. She would not have to learn to rely on tricks and crowd manipulation. She would be able to say what she wanted to say and people would accept it and listen. (Though not always agree. But that’s part of the happy bit of high status: you’re happy for other people to sit with their views. You don’t have to convince everyone. You’re OK with any response, even if it’s negative.) The kind of transformation Michelle Obama effected while in training to be First Lady was all about balancing the two sides of happy high status. The high status bit means no undermining quips that indicate you’re not too

comfortable in a position of power. It means being comfortable when others expect you to walk in front of them. It means stepping up to take decisions the second they are required. The happy bit means doing it in a stress-free, relaxed way, as if this is the most natural thing in the world to you. What does this have to do with everyday communication and public speaking? Everything. Because it’s about how you show up in the world. It’s about signalling to an audience whether you are genuinely happy and relaxed to be there, whether you can take on the mantle of responsibility, whether you can carry them for the duration of what you’re about to say. If this sounds incredibly scary, it doesn’t have to be. We all occupy roles in our everyday life in which we are naturally happy high status without thinking about it. We have to be this way with our friends when they’re relying on us to drive them somewhere (especially when we are the designated driver and everyone else is drunk). We have to be this way with our children when we’re crossing the road with them. We naturally behave in this way when we’re buying something in a shop or ordering food in a restaurant. In short, it’s the moments in life when we have to take charge in some small, manageable way and we feel completely OK about it. When there’s no pressure and no one is really watching, we’re totally fine with it. It’s when we have to do it on stage that it gets scary.

Creative Selwyn



We have widened our series of alumni achievements to include a broader range of media. Authors and writers still feature quite strongly, but also reflect the crossover between professions – from chemical engineer and criminologist, to jazz pianist and photo journalist.

Tom Taplin¹
(SE 2014)
Actor, currently performing in a two-hander play, *Shackleton and his Stowaway*, about the Antarctic expedition of Ernest Shackleton and his growing platonic relationship with (his character) the stowaway, Percy Black-borow, who snuck on to the expedition having not been initially accepted to work on it. Recently performing at the Cervantes Theatre in London.

Zack McCune²
(SE 2010)
Global marketing manager at the Wikimedia Foundation; increasing Wikipedia awareness in fast growing internet cultures. Last year he launched a short web video about Wikipedia in Nigeria that went viral and reached more than 17 million people. And it won an African Excellence Award. The secret? A witty seven-year-old comedian and YouTube star who loves Wikipedia.

James Swanton³
(SE 2009)
An actor and writer. He has been described by Simon Callow as 'a fearless actor' and 'a remarkable performer'. Achievements to date include four one-man plays, three horror films, and dropping his trousers (once) in front of Sir Ian McKellen.

Miranda Howard-Williams
(SE 2005)
A TV drama writer and director. Was selected for the BBC New Directors Scheme in 2018 and has been directing for the BBC daytime medical drama *Doctors*. Has a portfolio of award winning short films.

Oliver Wedgwood⁴
(SE 1993)
Jazz pianist, singer and composer Olly Wedgwood

has recently published a series of piano books: *JukeBox Collections*. "The whole idea behind the *JukeBox* series is to inspire pianists of all ages by offering a variety of popular piano styles with exciting backing tracks that bring the music to life."

Adam Blain⁵
(SE 1989)
Grin & Pear It. Around two years ago we published writer Adam's first book, *Pear Shaped*. Adam has recently had his follow up book published: a funny and moving look at the challenges of life after cancer treatment.

Jackie Smith
(SE 1987)
A literary translator with a particular interest in fiction and non-fiction book translation. In 2015 was awarded a place on the New

Books in German 'Emerging Translators Programme' for aspiring literary translators.

Prof. David Wilson⁶
(SE 1980)
My Life with Murderers, on the subject of murder and serial murderers in Britain. David is an academic criminologist who used to work in the prison service.

Fiona Macleod⁷
(SE 1979)
Fiona worked in the chemical industry for over 35 years with experience of managing highly hazardous chemical sites. She also writes under the name of Fiona Erskine. *The Chemical Detective*, a crime thriller with a chemical engineering protagonist – an explosives expert – uncovers a secret chemical weapons factory in the Chernobyl exclusion zone.

The personal stories and striking portraits behind genetic testing

Genetopia

Documentary photographer, Chrystal Ding (SE 2009) studied English at Selwyn College before going on to study a Master's degree in Photojournalism and Documentary Photography.

The idea for *Genetopia* came to her because there seemed to be a gap between genetics as a field, and how it relates to individual issues of identity and self-perception. At the same time, the prominence of genetic research in the consumer market was rapidly rising.

In 2017, the number of people doing consumer DNA tests doubled, and the market is forecast to almost double again in the next three years. Our collective interest in DNA testing shows no signs of stopping.

But what are the personal stories underpinning those large-scale changes? How and why are people so interested in exploring their DNA? And how do the results affect them?

Over the course of a year, Chrystal interviewed and photographed 23 individuals about these experiences. They shared medical records, family photographs and other personal documents to illustrate their stories, which she compiled into a book: *Genetopia*. Their stories present a complex landscape of unexpected discoveries, life-threatening genetic mutations, and deep commitment to finding out about their personal and ancestral heritage.

Genetopia was made with the support of the Wellcome Genome Campus Society and Ethics Research team and is on public display at the WGC Conference Centre, Hinxton, south east of Cambridge.



Above: Self portrait by Chrystal Ding.



Far left: Lucas.



Left: Becky-Dee.

We are very proud that three of our catering suppliers are run by Selwyn alumni – who have created successful national and international food brands that have captured growing shares of the market for healthy eating.

Food for thought

Food photographs: Marcus Ginns



Jim Dickinson (SE 1975) Longley Farm



Longley Farm products have been a long-established favourite in the Selwyn servery, even before we knew about the alumnus connection! Jim Dickinson is proud of the innovative projects they are involved in. In everything they do, they try to be different or counter intuitive. For instance, one of their strengths in yogurt is that most people don't like it: not enough colour or sugar! But that means they dominate the remaining small

market segment of people who do like their style. They have seen that over the years, there has been a swing in retail demand, away from cream and towards low fat products such as yogurt and cottage cheese. They take the challenge of obesity very seriously and are using innovative methods to make their products healthier without jeopardising their natural, delicious flavour. Longley Farm was the first in the country to use reverse osmosis to concentrate skimmed milk. Now they are developing the use of ultra-filtration to increase protein levels without pushing up lactose. If they are successful, they will be able to maintain their yogurt quality, but with less sugar and without using artificial sweeteners. And it's not just in food production where they have been innovators. Longley Farm put up the first commercial wind power generator in the country

"Back in the '70s the food at Selwyn, for the standards of the day, was delicious."
Jim Dickinson

"I had a fantastic time. And even after 20 years, I still keep in contact with the good friends I made here."
Tom Mercer

in 1986, replacing it in 2015 with a larger version rated at 225 KW. This is as a community project (HoTTWind@Longley), with local people buying shares, and the profits going to a trust whose objective is to reduce the carbon footprint in the local area. A particular project that Jim is working on is to convert waste streams that are going down the drain, into fertiliser and animal feed by a process of fermentation, ultrafiltration and decantation. Ever since studying thermodynamics at Cambridge, he has worried about our squandering of resources and abuse of the planet. The good news is that he is now in a position to make a small contribution to doing something about it. As a Fellow Benefactor of Selwyn College, Jim also generously supports the fundraising and development activities of the college. He remembers his time at Cambridge, during a strange period in the 1970s with the country in turmoil, philosophising until two in the morning... "Luckily, I remembered enough about thermodynamics to set up an international business on the back of it: so thank you Cambridge!"

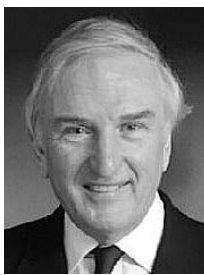
Tom Mercer (SE 1998) MOMA Foods

Tom Mercer is the founder of MOMA Foods, a London based breakfast food brand employing just 12 staff. MOMA was a genuine grass roots start up – the first kitchen was under a railway arch in South London and the first retail outlet was a stall in Waterloo station. MOMA is now the fastest growing porridge brand in the UK, with a retail sales value of around £10 million. It's the number one bircher muesli brand, supplying grocers, airlines, trains and other food service sectors, including universities and Selwyn College. MOMA has been a fascinating journey since it started in 2006, working across various product ranges, and building a strong, authentic brand. Tom, from a farming family in Staffordshire, has worked in all areas of the business. He saw that there was a gap in the market for a quick, healthy filling breakfast and wanted to create something that busy people could grab and go. He spent weeks researching and developing Breakfast Smoothies – a liquid mixture of yoghurt, oats and fruit – and then set up a trestle

table outside Waterloo station where he and his friends exchanged free samples of smoothie for email addresses. By the summer of 2008 they had nine stalls and were now selling into a few offices and shops, including Selfridges and – despite the recession – managed to secure contracts with Waitrose, Ocado and Virgin Atlantic. Now that the emphasis has been moved away from station sales towards a wholesale-only approach, the product focus has also been directed to a range of porridge oats. It's a larger market and physically easier to work with. The growing need for and awareness of gluten-free (GF) foods has really helped. Oats are naturally gluten-free, but they must be milled in a wheat-free environment to be certified 'gluten-free'. All of Tom's oats are grown in the UK and are milled at Glebe Farm, King's Ripton in Cambridgeshire. Selwyn College has been stocking MOMA porridge in the servery since 2011. It's a very popular grab-and-go breakfast for students in a hurry, but still a great, nutritious food choice.



Mark Laing (SE 1969) Nairn's Oatcakes



Nairn's Oatcakes have been produced in Edinburgh since the Nairn family founded the business in 1896. Mark Laing and his three partners acquired the business in 1996, at a time when people were becoming more aware of the health benefits of oats. The nutritional value was well-proven and Mark was fully aware that they are an essential part of a healthy diet, but it was more luck than judgement that oats were about to become an absolute superfood. Twenty three years on and the brand is now a worldwide success. In fact, four years ago Mark and his partners took the decision to retire from executive duties. Mark is still the major shareholder and chairman, but now the factory is under the day-to-day control of the managing director, responsible for more than 200 staff.



"I had very happy times at Selwyn. I seem to remember spending a lot of time on the river... As for the food served in Hall – there was never quite enough of it."
Mark Laing

We'd like to confirm, that's no longer the case!

They started producing gluten-free (GF) products in 2012 in a very small scale way. Mark and his team were amazed by the way the products were selling and set about expanding the production line. In 2016 they set up a completely free-standing and separate factory where they could be sure they would run no risk of gluten or wheat contamination, and secured the supply of all the GF oats they needed from a miller in Scotland. The UK market accounts for 90% of Nairn's business. The remaining 10% is exported to more than 40 countries around the world – often to places where Scots have been before – primarily the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, but also Cyprus and the Middle East. Mark recently went on a trip to Antarctica. The highlight of his trip was finding Nairn's Oatcakes when they stopped off on the Falkland Islands! If you have been involved in starting up and running your own business – please let us know; we would like to highlight more entrepreneurial stories involving our alumni. Contact: alumni-office@sel.cam.ac.uk

College investment reaps rewards

Photographs by Marcus Ginns

A Cambridge college is a place where people eat, sleep, study and relax.

Having made considerable investment in the refurbishment of accommodation and the creation of new facilities in Ann’s Court, including the new Library & Auditorium, it was recognised that the college needed to upgrade its catering facilities, which provide meals, snacks and drinks 50 weeks of the year for students, Fellows, staff and thousands of external visitors and conference guests. Masterminding this upgrade since his appointment in 2017 as Selwyn’s first Operations Manager is Chris Hurcomb, who shares with us his thoughts behind the refit.

Inspire Design Consultancy, who have worked on many National Trust properties, were contracted in 2017 to help adapt and develop Selwyn’s catering facilities. The challenge was to upgrade and modernise but to remain in keeping with the spirit of the place, its traditions and history.

Wanting both the servery and the bar to feel like they really belong as an integral part of the college, Inspire undertook a visual appearance survey. This served three purposes:

- to understand the college in detail, developing an appropriate look and feel
- to draw a detailed plan of the space, understanding the equipment in more detail, to allow for new equipment to be brought in
- to understand what the members of the JCR and MCR want from the spaces they use.

Right: The Servery’s new layout makes for better flow as students choose self-service items or are served a range of hot main courses.

Top right: The new salad bar has a range of delicious cold side dishes prepared by our talented kitchen staff.

The Servery

Throughout the design process for the Servery we were keen to ensure that it felt like a special part of Selwyn. The colours chosen are the colours in the Selwyn shield. The design of the architraves matched those of the outside of the Hall. The fonts on menu boards are in the Selwyn style. The flooring was matched to reflect the same herringbone effect as in the Hall. At the same time, we redesigned the counters to show off our products; and added a centre island to

have self-service desserts, fresh cakes and fruit. We replaced the drip-style coffee maker with a barista served, authentic coffee making machine. The whole effect is sleek and professional but retains a friendly college atmosphere.

The new servery is popular and well used by our members, and sales are also increasing across non-members and conference guests. In the first six months of the financial year (June – December 2018) – bearing in mind the servery opened in September – sales have increased by more than £44,000, which is over 12% growth in sales.



The Kathleen Lyttelton Room

In February 2018 the College Council approved the renaming of the Tower Room to the Kathleen Lyttelton Room (above) in recognition of the achievements of the wife of Selwyn’s first Master, Arthur Lyttelton, and specifically her involvement with the women’s suffrage movement.

As an iconic room overlooking Old Court in the original part of the college, it was important that the Kathleen Lyttelton Room was finished to a high standard in keeping with its Victorian origins. At the same time, it had to meet the needs of 21st century audiences requiring a multi-use function room. The room was completed over the summer vacation of 2018, and on Sunday 14th October, was officially opened by three surviving grandchildren of Kathleen and Arthur Lyttelton.

It is now a popular and widely admired space that is used for internal and external meetings and events; a great example of the quality of finish that we will look to achieve for all future projects of this type.



The Borradaile Room



Utilising the Borradaile Room was an integral part of the whole design process. Previously this room was used infrequently and was in dire need of redecoration and new furnishings. By refurbishing this space we now have a comfortable area that is used by students and staff and is open all the time. The new servery is now open all day every day. So when the main lunch service has finished, students, staff and visitors can still purchase sandwiches, cakes and drinks throughout the day and sit and enjoy them in the newly refurbished Borradaile Room. A space that has proved extremely popular.

(continued from previous page)

The Bar

Whilst work was being carried out on the Tower Room, we were also redesigning the Bar. With a very similar design process to the Borradaile Room and Servery, consultation was undertaken with the JCR and MCR, and plans were signed off early this year allowing work to begin in March 2019 for a May opening. The new bar also utilises the Selwyn colour palette and physically provides 30% more space and fully accessible entrances and toilets.

As with the servery, the intention is for the bar to be open all-day, serving food and beverages as well as more traditional bar drinks. This will give a café style atmosphere during the day with barista coffee and a range of simple foods on offer. The food element was an important consideration in the design process, as the consultation process had made clear that many of our students would like to be able to buy snacks and meals after the evening Hall dinner service is over. We also wanted to provide a space where students can quietly relax or study during the day, so extra provision was made for laptops to plug in, and USB and Wi-Fi.

Overall, we hope these improvements demonstrate our commitment to improving the student experience and ensuring that the college

has safe and friendly spaces for people to gather and socialise over a nutritious meal, a coffee or a pint. We hope that you'll come and take a look and enjoy a drink with us when you are next back at Selwyn.

Below: The Bar has been transformed - now it is a bright and inviting space to meet friends and enjoy a drink.



OUTREACH

Aspiration, inspiration & participation

By increasing the range of interactions prospective students can have with Selwyn College, we offer students from school years 11 and 12 a taste of what life at Cambridge could be like. Our schools liaison officer, Matt Wise explains.



In April 2018, I joined Selwyn College as the schools liaison officer having just finished my PhD research at the Scott Polar Research Institute here in Cambridge. I remember my first weeks as being a whirlwind of activity both here in Cambridge and in our link areas of East Berkshire and West Yorkshire. Each college in Cambridge has its own set of link areas, which enable us to build effective, coherent relations with schools and colleges, and to provide a first point of contact to teachers and supporters. Since April 2018, schools have brought over 550 students of all ages to visit Selwyn, the majority of whom have never set foot in Cambridge before. Partnerships with educational charities such as the Brilliant Club and the Sutton Trust has seen a further 250 students visit. I have also spent a considerable amount of time visiting schools across our link areas, speaking to over 1,000 students about the university, its admissions process, and how to survive the dreaded interview. But in all of my interactions with students, two big questions crop up again and again; are there people like me at Cambridge? Will I fit in?

For many, to quote a boy from Leeds, Cambridge is seen as being 'full of posh people who swish around in gowns, so there is no way a lad from up north will fit in'. This view is not

uncommon, and often results in low confidence and low aspirations in future choices, even if academic attainment, drive and potential indicates that a student is worthy of a place at Cambridge. At Selwyn we work hard to address these views, and have found that one of the best ways to do so is by inviting students to come visit us and experience first-hand what life as a Cambridge student is like. Each summer, we hold summer schools and residential events for students in school years 11 and 12, who take part in a packed programme of lectures, seminars, supervisions, visits to museums and social activities. By meeting our current undergraduates, who come from a diverse range of UK and international backgrounds, they see that there really are people like them at Cambridge.

The feedback we received for our 2018 Summer Schools was excellent and really cemented the hugely positive impact such interactions have on potential applicants. One participant wrote: "Summer school has helped change the way I perceive Cambridge. The student ambassadors (some even from my local area) proved that Cambridge is accepting a wealth of people from different backgrounds. It has made me realise that Cambridge is an attainable target for someone like me." The impact of these events can be seen first-hand when we look at our admissions data. This year, 50% of those who came on our Year 12 Summer School applied to Cambridge, and 30% of these are now holding an offer at one of the colleges.

Despite these successes, it's important to remember that the demands and requirements of prospective students continues to evolve, and that the college must be innovative in its widening participation and access activities. Last year over 800 students applied for 115 places on our various summer events. This record level of demand made us evaluate our plans for this year, which will now see us offering an increased number of shorter residential events for Year 12 students targeted at specific subject areas, including medicine, languages and linguistics, history, politics and HSPS, and the natural sciences. These will run in addition to our annual Year 11 Arts and Humanities summer school, which will see participants travelling virtually through the Italian Peninsula as they explore some of the subjects on offer at Cambridge. Through these new events we are able to substantially increase the number of student interactions with Selwyn.

Climate Change Curation Project

Another innovation is the Climate Change Curation Project, which will see twelve Year 12 students explore cutting edge polar research with some of the world's leading experts at the Scott Polar Research Institute and the British Antarctic Survey. By meeting and working with these experts, the students will become part of an experienced museum team, and delve into the archives of the Scott Polar Research Institute's Polar Museum to plan an exhibition on Climate

"I thought Cambridge was an unrealistic target before visiting Selwyn."

Student on Year 12 Summer School

115	Number of summer event places
800	Number of students who applied for summer event places
50%	Half of those who came on our Year 12 Summer School applied to Cambridge



Change from start to finish. During Autumn 2019 the exhibition will go on public display at the Polar Museum, and all participants will have their names credited. Whilst the project's timetable will be jam-packed with academic talks and activities, there will also be a key focus on developing vital transferable skills that the participants can use in their CVs and future applications, therefore making it a summer school like no other. The participants will also get to experience life as an undergraduate by living, eating and socialising at their base in Selwyn, and gain valuable insight into how they can best prepare for university applications. This project is extremely exciting as it is the first of its kind and shows clearly how close collaboration between Cambridge colleges, departments and museums can produce new and innovative ways to develop outreach and access projects. I am thankful to our partners at the Scott Polar Research Institute and the British Antarctic Survey, without whom this project would not be possible.

Widening participation

In all aspects of my widening participation, outreach and access work, I hold three values closely; aspiration, inspiration and innovation. By meeting our Fellows and other university academics, we inspire the future generation of each subject, and by meeting our friendly staff and undergraduates, we show that Selwyn is a very welcoming and open place. Students therefore leave with a sense that with hard work and determination, they can aspire to a top university like Cambridge.

My passion for widening participation and outreach stems from my time as a Geography admissions interviewer, and the fundamental principle of Cambridge admissions, which is 'to admit the best and brightest students, irrespective of social, cultural, religious, school or financial background'. The outreach work we do at Selwyn is vital to ensuring that students have all the tools and resources they need to make informed decisions about their future, and most importantly, debunk the wealth of misconceptions they might have about highly-selective universities like Cambridge. I am glad to have the opportunity here at Selwyn, alongside a highly supportive Fellowship, staff and student community, to make a difference to the lives of young people, and look forward to continue increasing their aspiration and inspiration over the years to come.

Top left: The Scott Polar Research Institute has a friendly community of postgraduate students, working for the PhD degree or the MPhil in Polar Studies. Bottom left: Our annual Year 11 Arts and Humanities Summer School is always very popular – last year over 110 students applied for 30 places.

If you would like to learn more about how you can help more young people to attend Selwyn's summer schools or outreach programme, simply contact the Schools Liaison Officer. Email: schools-liaison@sel.cam.ac.uk

Event highlights

Wednesday 10 July Summer Social & Concert, London

Join us for a summer evening get-together and music. An informal drinks reception will take place from 6pm, then later in the evening the Selwyn College Choir are in concert. Come for one or both events. The concert programme will include music from Cecilia McDowall, Thomas la Voy and Sarah MacDonald. Social: Bridewell Hall, Bride Lane, London. Concert: St Bride’s Church, Fleet Street, London. Time: Social from 6pm, Concert from 7.30pm. Cost: Social £10, Concert £15, £20 for both.



12-23 July Selwyn Choir USA Tour

Visiting New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington DC For more information see the events section of the alumni website

Saturday 28 September Alumni Day Commemoration of Benefactors Service, Lectures, 2009 Reunion

All are welcome for a full day of events including two contrasting lectures by Selwyn Fellows, followed by the Commemoration of Benefactors service in Chapel. The annual dinner takes place in the evening, and we are particularly pleased to invite all those who matriculated in 2009 to come and celebrate 10 years since matriculation. 12pm: Talk by Prof Nick Butterfield: *Life on Earth, four billion years of ecological devastation.* 2pm: Talk by Prof Katharine Ellis: *Slow Opera: Open-air spectacle in the French Midi around 1900.* 6pm: Choral Evensong and Commemoration of Benefactors. 6.45pm for 7.30pm: drinks followed by dinner in Hall. Cost: no charge for the talks, £49 per person for dinner

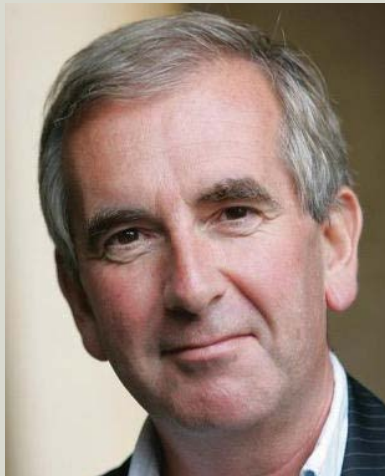
Prof Katharine Ellis



LAST SUPPER IN POMPEII

In conversation Robert Harris & Pompeii exhibition private view Monday 9 September

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford Tea & coffee: 4pm Robert Harris + Q&A: 4.45pm Drinks reception: 5.45pm Private View of *Last Supper in Pompeii* exhibition: 6.30pm. Cost: £10 per person.



Author of *Pompeii*, and numerous other best-sellers, including the Cicero Trilogy, *Fatherland*, *Munich*, *Conclave*, *An Officer and a Spy* – will be ‘in conversation’ with the Master Roger Mosey at the Ashmolean Museum. They will be joined by the museum’s curator Dr Paul Roberts, Sackler Keeper of the Department of Antiquities. Join us for an informal Q&A with Robert Harris, followed by a drinks reception and private view of the Pompeii exhibition.

Tuesday 8 October Curator-led tour of The Moon exhibition

The Moon is a major exhibition timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing. The earliest drawings of the moon, made using a telescope, by Thomas Harriott, are loaned from the collection of Lord Egremont. As well as the Royal Museums Greenwich’s own 100-inch map of the moon by Hugh Percy Wilkins, artefacts from the Apollo space programme will also be shown to the public for the first time. Time: 11am. National Maritime Museum Cost: £10 per person



Friday 1 November Michaelmas Term Alumni Guest Night

Continuing our successful fine dining evenings, you are warmly invited to bring guests to experience a black tie dinner in Hall. Enjoy a five course dinner with a special menu and top-quality wines, including port with cheese and coffee. Numbers are limited to ensure we offer high quality service. Selwyn College Time: 7pm for 7.30pm Cost: £75 per person



Save the date!

Save the date!
Friday 22 May 2020
Easter Term Alumni Guest Night

Diary of events 2019

Jun 20	May Week Concert, Selwyn College Chapel
Jul 5	1984 & 1994 Reunions
Jul 6	1882 Society Lunch
Jul 6	Family Day
Jul 10	Summer Social and Concert, St Bride’s Church, London
Jul 12-23	Selwyn Choir Tour: New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington DC
Jul 14	Alumni Reception, St Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue New York City
Sep 9	Talk: Robert Harris, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
Sep 14	1989 & 1999 Reunions
Sep 18	1959 Reunion
Sep 28	Alumni Day, Commemoration of Benefactors Service & 2009 Reunion
Oct 8	National Maritime Museum visit, Greenwich London
Oct 12	Old Boys & Girls Sports Day
Oct 31	Talk: Owen Matthews, Oxford & Cambridge Club,* London
Nov 1	Michaelmas Term Alumni Guest Night
Nov 28	Talk: Dr Ann Kennedy Smith, Oxford & Cambridge Club,* London
Dec 10	Carol Service, Selwyn College Chapel
Dec 12	Carol Service, St James’s Piccadilly, London

2020

May 22 Easter Term Alumni Guest Night

Please note: all events are subject to change. Please check event details prior to booking to ensure that dates are correct. All events listed above will take place at Selwyn College unless otherwise noted, and have limited capacity. Guests are encouraged to book in good time to avoid disappointment. * Please note that it is a rule of the Oxford & Cambridge Club that no denim or trainers should be worn and men wear a jacket and tie.

Booking

You can book in a number of ways:
• by telephone on 01223 767844/335843
• online at www.selwynalumni.com/eventscalendar
• by post, enclosing a cheque where necessary (payable to Selwyn College), to Development and Alumni Office, Selwyn College, Cambridge CB3 9DQ

The Master Roger Mosey updates us on the new Library & Auditorium project and other observations during the past year.

Master's Notebook



Digging in

It's around five years since a new library and auditorium changed from being a long-term aspiration to something that we had a good chance of delivering. There was a wonderful donation to get us started from Chris Dobson (SE 1957), in whose wife's memory Ann's Court is named. And now, after lots of deliberation and planning, the diggers have moved in to the site on the corner of Grange Road and West Road – and a new building really is happening. The divergence from the original college masterplan, which dates back to the 1990s, is that we have combined a new library and auditorium into one building. The overwhelming feedback from alumni and friends is that they really like the design, which is by the architects Porphyrios who did the first two phases of Ann's Court. A couple of people have questioned the purpose of the tower, due to reach a height of 26 metres; and it's the dual use of the building that makes it necessary. We have to make sure that the merry sounds from the auditorium don't reach the library – and it was decided to put services, a staircase and lifts into a separate unit. The height was the subject of much discussion by the city council's advisory panel – who wanted it to be even higher to bring “a sense of joy” to the building – and by our governing body, who reduced it by a metre or so, but who saw the advantages of not ending up with the blandest of buildings. The top of the tower will have a viewing area to allow visitors to look out over the city, and we're debating how it will be illuminated – while avoiding it being a Selwyn Lighthouse. I heard a better nickname the other day, anyway: one of our staff is calling it The Ivory Tower.



“This summer marks the end of my sixth year at Selwyn. I have just about stopped introducing myself to alumni as ‘the new Master’.”

Love it or hate it?

Sitting proudly in my study is a jar of Marmite labelled Messiaen. It was a gift from our director of music Sarah MacDonald and our chaplain Hugh Shilson-Thomas after my mutterings about how much I dislike Olivier Messiaen's organ compositions – at least one of which makes me fear the organist has collapsed at the keyboard and is flailing around sending a message for help. I'm grateful to Sarah for putting up with my comments about the music in Chapel – and, indeed, for ignoring my prejudices. I take pride in being part of a college tradition that regards *Brewer in D* as being musical perfection for the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*; but I also wouldn't want to diminish our commitment to a wide range of composers and to new music. The tongue-in-cheek

compliments to Sarah can sometimes be on the lines of “actually, that wasn't too bad” – though there are many times that she comes up with a completely delightful previously-unheard piece. Dare I say it: some of the best are her own compositions. She has an ear for melody that the man on the Marmite jar lacks.

A pair of hounds

We were joined in the Lodge last August by a second dog. Isla, aged two, is YoYo's great niece, and she was also an Albany basset: part of a pack based in Hertfordshire. YoYo was expelled five years ago for being stubborn, a trait she has retained fully at Selwyn; and Isla seems not to have made it as a pack member because she's rather nervous and skittish. The experts said that Isla would follow YoYo's example in college and would become as sociable as her great aunt – but so far they're wrong. Whereas YoYo barges into first-year suppers and poses for students taking selfies, Isla runs upstairs and hides until everyone has gone. Once she gets to know people, she is a friendly and sometimes rather assertive dog; but it seems unlikely she'll ever have YoYo's aplomb in zooming out among crowds at parties – seeking a pat, and any dropped canapés.

No longer new

This summer marks the end of my sixth year at Selwyn. I have just about stopped introducing myself to alumni as ‘the new Master’. Under the college statutes, I have six more years to go (unless I greatly offend the governing body). Friends in the media sometimes ask me if I wish I were back in Broadcasting House covering Brexit. Brexit or Selwyn? I hope I don't need to give an answer to that.