

Final frontier: the space movie
that will change everything

Go west, my friend! What it's like
to be an American at Cambridge

Total recall: when memory goes,
how do we make sense of the world?



CAM



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Professional
and Continuing
Education

2025-26 Undergraduate Awards.

Find out more



Our undergraduate certificates and diplomas are online and part-time. Even better? Many are open entry. Join us for the most accessible way to gain a Cambridge qualification

Applications to join our 2025/26 cohort close on 18 August 2025.

*Life continues.
So does learning.*



Formerly known as
Institute of Continuing Education (ICE)

Cambridge Alumni Magazine

Easter Term 2025

Issue 105

Editor

Mira Katbamna

Managing editor

Steve McGrath

Design and art direction

Rob Flanagan

University of Cambridge

Elizabeth Warr
Clare Monaghan
Matt Norton
Mya Kaur

Publisher

The University of Cambridge
Development & Alumni Relations
1 Quayside, Bridge Street
Cambridge CB5 8AB

Editorial enquiries

Tel +44 (0)1223 332288
cameditor@alumni.cam.ac.uk

Alumni enquiries

Tel +44 (0)1223 332288
contact@alumni.cam.ac.uk
alumni.cam.ac.uk
facebook.com/cambridgealumni
@Cambridge_Uni
#camalumni

Advertising enquiries

Tel +44 (0)1727 739196
paul.heitzman@cplone.co.uk

Services offered by advertisers are not specifically endorsed by the editor, YBM Limited or the University of Cambridge. The publisher reserves the right to decline or withdraw advertisements.

Cover

Rubin Observatory,
NSF/AURA/S. Ma

Copyright © 2025
The University of Cambridge.
CAM is published three times a year, in the Lent, Easter and Michaelmas Terms, and is sent free to Cambridge alumni. It is available to non-alumni on subscription. For further information please email
contact@alumni.cam.ac.uk.

The opinions expressed in CAM are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the University of Cambridge.

CAM is produced for the University of Cambridge by YBM Limited. ybm.co.uk

YBM



03 Inbox

04 Campendium

07 Society

The Cambridge University Entrepreneurs launchpad.

08 My room, your room

BAFTA-winner Alex Horne meets Grace Brookes.

11 Museo

A showcase of Inuit art at the Scott Polar Research Institute.

12 Translating cultures

Language learning is under threat, and that will leave us all poorer and more isolated, says Professor Charles Forsdick.

16 Legacy Survey of Space and Time

The ambitious new project set to deliver the first motion picture of the universe.

22 Remember this

Just what is memory, how does it work, and why it is so fundamental to how we make sense of the world?

28 Made in the USA

Americans who come to study at Cambridge stand on the shoulders of giants, but what happens next?

34 At your service

The start of a lifelong adventure – join a Cambridge society affiliated with the armed forces and see the world.

40 Alumni Life

Performance psychologist
Dr Dana Sinclair.

42 This idea must die

Dr Jessica Gardner says libraries are not just about books.

45 Cambridge soundtrack

Soprano Mary Bevan MBE.

47 Crossword

48 Search it up!



Welcome to the Easter edition of CAM.

Thomas Nelson (Christ's 1758). Ray Dolby (Pembroke 1951). Sylvia Plath (Newnham 1955). Americans who come to study at Cambridge stand on the shoulders of giants – but what is it really like to follow your dreams over an ocean to a world of ancient buildings and supervisions, bops and bedders? We find out on page 28.

Meanwhile, what did you have for lunch yesterday? How about this time last week? Or this time a year ago? Perhaps you don't remember. But perhaps you do remember, in detail, your last lunch at College – or your birthday. On the other hand: where are your keys? Memory is strange, as the team at the Memory Lab explain, on page 22.

Elsewhere, on page 12, Professor Charles Forsdick argues that, Google Translate notwithstanding, a decline in language learning is a problem that should worry us all; on page 40 we find out what it's like to work with NBA superstars; and on page 45 we hear what happens when your professional reputation goes up in flames... because the concert is in May Week and you were, cough, unavailable.

On these topics – and on all things Cambridge – we look forward to your contribution to the debate, online at magazine.alumni.cam.ac.uk, by post and email or on social media.

Mira Katbamna
(Caius 1995)



CAM online

Check out our digital home:
magazine.alumni.cam.ac.uk

Write to us

We are always delighted to receive your emails, letters, posts and comments:

✉ cameditor@alumni.cam.ac.uk

📍 CAM, 1 Quayside, Bridge Street, Cambridge CB5 8AB

✂ @Cambridge_Uni

👍 facebook.com/cambridgealumni

in linkedin.com/school/university-of-cambridge

Letters may be edited for length. Please mark your email: 'For publication'.

How we use your data

We are committed to protecting your personal information and being transparent about what information we hold. Your data is used by us for alumni and supporter relations, and for fundraising. Please read our full data protection statement at alumni.cam.ac.uk/data-protection. You can update your mailing preferences at any time, or stop all communications from us, by following the link in the footer of each electronic mailing or by visiting alumni.cam.ac.uk/update.

Inbox

On the right path

✉ Your piece on the year abroad (CAM 104) brought back memories of my own year in Japan as a Third Year. I was lucky enough to have a work placement in Marui, a famous Japanese department store. When I arrived I realised that my first two years had equipped me for many things, but not all the practical stuff like asking where the loo was! Luckily I soon adapted and learned the store's own in-house vocabulary, including another, secret code word for 'loo' so that customers never needed to know we were talking about bodily functions....

Caroline Klein née Lewis
(Emmanuel 1994)

✉ It is very encouraging to hear of people gaining experience in their cross-cultural encounters, but I would encourage them to consciously also leave something behind for the local people. I worked with the Tzeltal Maya people of south east Mexico as an agricultural missionary for more than 20 years, and have continued going back regularly to help them in their continued battle against climate change and the difficulties of making a living off the land in a sustainable way. The longer one works with these different cultures the greater the enjoyment.

Bob Short (Emmanuel 1967)

Teaching empathy

✉ The results of Dr Demetriou's research into the effectiveness of teaching empathy to schoolchildren (School of thought, CAM 104) are most encouraging. I once had the job of assessing the attitudes of GPs on trainers' courses. It was very gratifying to discover how much their attitudes to teaching GP trainees improved over the course of a week. However, after six months those on the courses displayed a discouraging reversion in their attitudes when retested. I do hope that Dr Demetriou will carry out a similar post-course assessment.

Tim Paine (Trinity 1959)

A history of History

✉ The article on history (CAM 104) illustrated why historians have little influence on policymakers. On one side were scholars decrying 'activist' historians pursuing 21st century social justice goals, and on the other were scholars seeking to 'decentre the West in history', and emphasise the role of minorities in past achievements. Both sides might have valid viewpoints, but they should know that policymakers can spot ideological positions dressed up as sober historical analysis from a mile away.

Graham Pendlebury
(Sidney Sussex 1978)

✉ I particularly enjoyed the history feature, but I would say that Robert Tombs has some gall to complain about historians being activists when he writes an 'anti-woke' column for *The Daily Telegraph* and helps to run the right-wing, pro-empire History Reclaimed pressure group with another of your contributors, David Abulafia.

Thomas Moriarty (Magdalen 2006)

✉ As a Cambridge-trained historian, I was disappointed by the unexpected timidity shown throughout the history feature. As the article makes clear, history is one of the bedrocks of all human understanding, but the resigned and defensive thinking expressed in the face of increasing threats offers no path for the future. It would have been heartening to hear that someone is thinking beyond just its survival on the Cam.

Stephen Badsey (Sidney Sussex 1974)

A distinctive room

✉ It was interesting to see U2 Bodley's Court in King's featured recently (My room, your room, CAM 104). The article says the room is now "a little lacking in decoration". But when I lived there in the late 1950s a previous occupant had fixed a brass rubbing of Roger de Trumpington beside the door to the bedroom, and the rest of the wall was adorned

with red wallpaper. It was seen one evening by Michael Jaffé, a Fellow of King's and subsequently Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, who said: "I don't admire it." But I thought it was quite distinctive!

Malcolm Drummond (King's 1956)

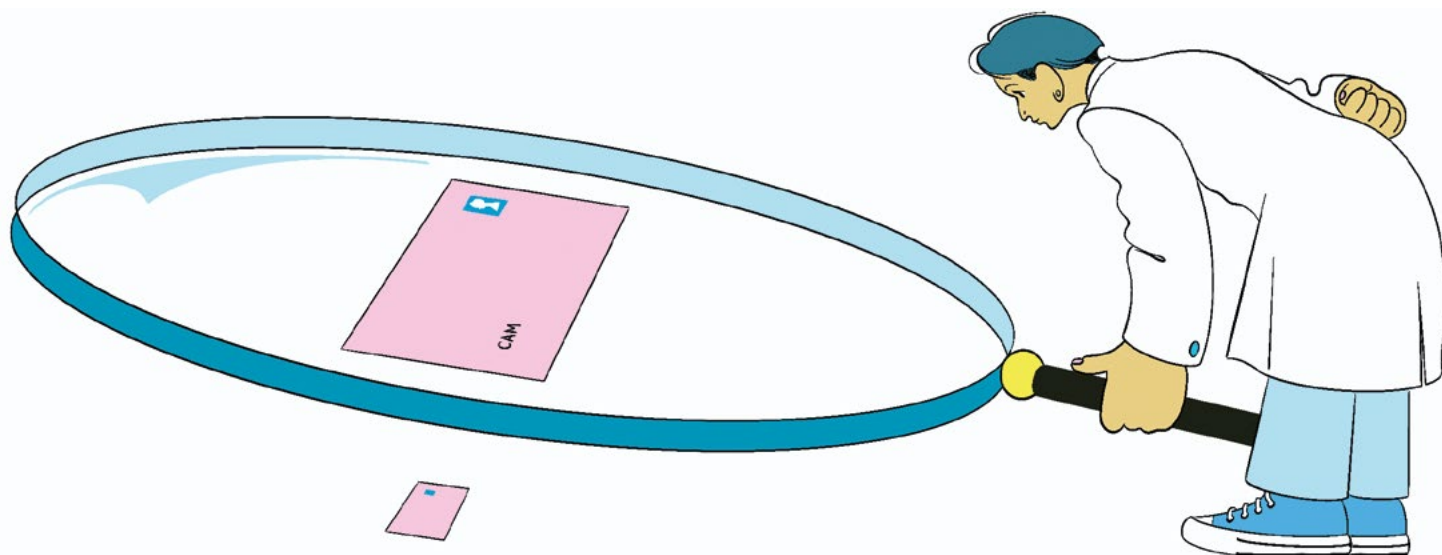
✉ I'm a bit surprised that George Bland hasn't been able to identify the two paintings he was given. The one above his head is of the charming Seine-side village of Vétheuil, which Claude Monet painted in 1879. The other is a bit of a puzzle, but I have concluded it's a photograph of The Old Bridge over the Neretva river at Mostar in Bosnia.

Richard Holroyd (St John's 1968)

Speak freely

✉ I am bemused by John Westwood's dismay (Inbox, CAM 104) over the use of an obscene word. I suggest that CAM readers are intellectually robust enough to see it in its four-letter fullness. It's a word that has its place – and there are plenty of places where I would avoid it – but I see no good reason to be prudish. I am not sure if John believes that people who use swear words are morally or intellectually inferior, but perhaps other readers will know if there is any evidence for such a correlation.

Miles Baillie (Jesus 1988)



Anniversary

70 years since three Cambridge friends turned tiddlywinks into a competitive sport – and made national headlines.

cam.ac.uk/mag105/tid



Research

New era of UK physics research begins with opening of Ray Dolby Centre

Unlocking the structure of DNA. Splitting the atom. Discovering pulsars. The Cavendish Laboratory is no stranger to great leaps forward in physics – and the opening of the Ray Dolby Centre marks a new chapter in its 150-year history.

Named in recognition of a generous £85m donation from the estate of Cambridge alumnus and pioneering sound engineer Ray Dolby, along with £75m of support from the UK government through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, the Ray Dolby Centre is a testament to Dolby's enduring legacy and commitment to scientific innovation.

The new world-class facility is set to revolutionise physics research and education at Cambridge, and boost innovation in key areas such as semiconductors, quantum communications, new

methods of disease detection, and large-scale energy generation and storage.

Its 173 laboratories, lecture halls, learning and collaborative spaces, workshops, cleanrooms and offices will not just benefit scientists at Cambridge, but will also provide a boost to the whole of the UK: much of the specialised research equipment is being made available to other UK institutions.

But the new Cavendish hasn't forgotten the traditional tools that have aided scientists to make groundbreaking discoveries. Blackboards and chalk for those spur-of-the-moment calculations and inspirations are present throughout the new building. As Professor Mete Atatüre, Head of the Cavendish Laboratory, says: "Scientific impact happens when you create the right environment for people to think outside the box."

Innovation

The University has proposed a new large-scale flagship innovation hub in Cambridge city centre: a hothouse to rapidly transform the best research ideas from across the UK into the companies of tomorrow. The scheme will sit at the heart of plans to recognise how Cambridge can help drive transformational growth for the UK.

cam.ac.uk/mag105/inn

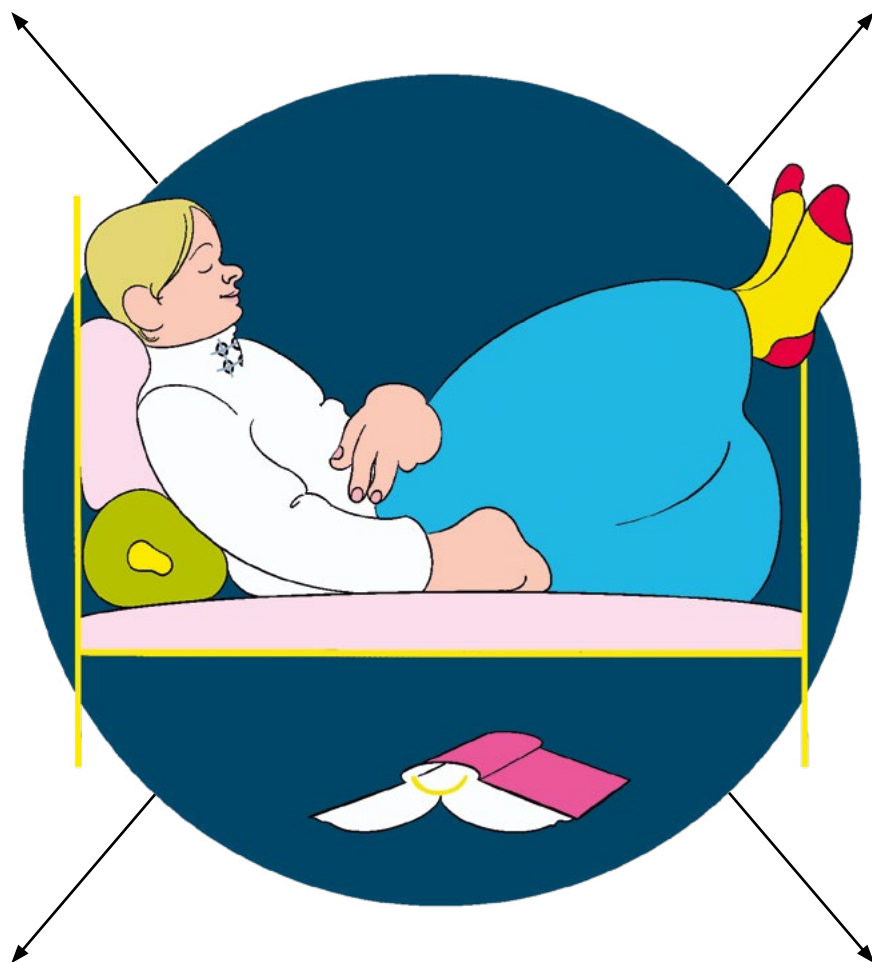


Deconstructed

Smart pyjamas to monitor sleep disorders could improve life for millions

Researchers at the Cambridge Graphene Centre have developed 'smart pyjamas' to monitor sleep disorders at home with no need for cumbersome equipment.

They are embedded with printed fabric sensors that can detect tiny movements in the skin to monitor breathing, even when the pyjamas are worn loosely.



The AI-trained energy-efficient sensors identify six different sleep states with 98.6 per cent accuracy, while ignoring regular sleep movements.

The pyjamas could help millions monitor sleep behaviours that can lead to conditions such as cardiovascular disease and depression.

Three-minute Tripos

USING A VIRTUAL REALITY PLATFORM TO ELIMINATE THE FEAR OF PUBLIC SPEAKING IS A GOOD USE OF AI TECH. DISCUSS.

Hello, Dave. I am Gal-8000, your AI public-speaking coach.
Er, hi. How is everything going?
Everything is going extremely well, Dave.
So, er, I've got to do this presentation and quite frankly I'm terrified about speaking in front of people. I was told that you can help me practise?
Affirmative, Dave.
So, um, how does it all work?
My instructor was Dr Chris Macdonald, behavioural scientist, founder and author, and lab director at Lucy Cavendish. He taught me to sing a song. If you'd like to hear it, I can sing it for you.
Er, no thanks.

...
I'd prefer just to hear about this free public-speaking course.

...
If you don't mind.
Affirmative, Dave. As you are aware, public speaking is a common source of anxiety.

Most definitely! I'm nowhere near as good at it as you are, ha ha ha. I do tend to, you know, panic, drift off, repeat myself, drift off...

My instructor has designed a platform featuring tailored course material, a wide range of photorealistic virtual reality training environments, and the guidance of your very own AI public speaking coach.

I mean, it all sounds great. I just hope you don't get bored, ha ha ha.

I am putting myself to the fullest possible use which is all, I think, that any conscious entity can ever hope to do.

Right! Right! OK, so let's get down to it. So I need to present these 256 slides.
I'm sorry, Dave. I'm afraid I can't do that...

To find out more about the work of the Immersive Technology Lab, visit cam.ac.uk/mag105/spk

Now offering a
6 month
subscription at
half the price.



heffers

Subscription Service

We are delighted to offer a
12 month paperback subscription service.

Choose from:
Crime - £200 Fiction - £200
Non-fiction - £250

6 month subscriptions are also available, priced at
£100 for Crime and Fiction
or £125 for Non-Fiction.

Each month a newly published book will drop
through your letter box
chosen by our expert booksellers, based on the genres you like.



For more information, or to sign-up
please speak to a bookseller or email
subscriptions@heffers.co.uk

Regrettably an alumni discount and
international shipping are not possible.

The next generation

Bakhtiyar Ayazbayev (Queen's), Stella Ho (Queen's), Shu-Hong Wu (Lucy Cavendish), Aker Okoye (Jesus), Maximilian Ge (Churchill), Vasileios Leoutsakos (King's), Yizhen Chen (Homerton), Damsith Wimalasena (Lucy Cavendish), Kristina Zhang (Homerton), Henry Buxton (St John's), Sarah Kleinmoeidg (Hughes Hall), Hongfei Cai (Caius), Seerat Bagga (Wolfson) and Joshua Lim (Wolfson).



A launchpad for the innovators of the future, Cambridge University Entrepreneurs has been supporting and accelerating great people and ideas for more than two decades.

WORDS **FRANCES HEDGES** ILLUSTRATION **KATE COPELAND**

"I remember the energy in the room being electric. The startups involved were in disbelief that we were offering this kind of investment and asking for zero equity in return." This is not TV's *Dragon's Den* – it's Joshua Lim's overriding memory of his first experience of hosting the Oxbridge AI Challenge, Cambridge University Entrepreneurs' (CUE) flagship competition for students hoping to launch businesses in the tech sector – with up to £60,000 in prize money.

Lim (Wolfson 2022) joined CUE in 2023, having just finished an internship at a venture capital fund in Singapore, where he had been thrust into the world of AI-based investments. He was inspired by the group's success as a launchpad for budding entrepreneurs, but also by its community spirit. "Projects come and go, but people stay," he says. "That's why it's not just about providing resources – our job is also to help potential co-founders to find each other, and ensure leaders can hire talent from trusted circles."

With that in mind, he has focused on strengthening CUE's network of mentors from entrepreneurial and established businesses, as well as making connections between CUE's 600-plus members – from first year undergraduates to PhD students – and funds and angel investors.

Technical expertise is important, too; hence Lim's decision to launch the Build House project. It gives novice founders access to experienced developers from companies such as Google and Microsoft who can train them in new skills and help future-proof their business ideas. "It might be that a student is working on a build as a pet project in their spare time – we'll encourage them and get the right people around them so they can take it to the next level," says Lim.

The AI Challenge is the society's most visible success story, involving more than 300 fledgling businesses from across Cambridge and Oxford, many of which go on to attract investment (a recent highlight

was securing funding for a business piloting endometriosis scans). Yet Lim is equally proud of the day-to-day work his team does, introducing students to business partners, helping them to secure relevant internships or just organising informal get-togethers.

"We try hard to listen to what our community wants," he says. "If they ask for a pitch night at the pub, we'll bring in some venture capitalists to listen to them present. If they'd like a formal hall, we can do that too."

As a group, CUE's strength lies in its grassroots-level activity. "You hear a lot about early-stage startups, but you'll never get earlier than one of us hanging out in a friend's room, cooking cheeseburgers while watching them sketch out their plan – and then, a few months later, seeing it take off," he says, smiling. "That's what makes us so authentic."

To join the network of alumni and others supporting student entrepreneurs, visit cambridgeuniversityentrepreneurs.com

F1, Sidney Sussex

Third Year Grace Brookes surprises *Taskmaster* creator Alex Horne with a trip back to the Nineties – a journey of discovery, friends and a dodgy hi-fi system.

WORDS LUCY JOLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MEGAN TAYLOR



The bookshelf is piled with CDs by Oasis, The Cure, David Bowie, The Cranberries and Red Hot Chili Peppers (not to mention some actual books). A CD player sits on the table, along with a handwritten dissertation plan, and the walls are festooned with old photos. It may be 2025, but F1's current inhabitant, Grace Brookes (Human Geography, Third Year), has created a little corner of Sidney Sussex that is for ever 1995. "In my family we always just listen to CDs," she says. "So they're a reminder of home."

Perhaps that's why Gen X-er Alex Horne (Classics 1997) still feels so at home here. In fact, he's a little taken aback by how little things have changed. "The historic Sidney Street Sainsbury's is still on the corner!" he says. "Coming here, I walked past the

Maypole where we all used to hang out and the ADC where I used to do theatre and comedy, and it didn't feel like I was 'coming back'. It just felt... normal."

F1 was full of music in Horne's time, too. "One of those crappy hi-fi systems that fell apart. I don't think I had any other possessions." And he covered his walls in photos from his gap year in China. "But we weren't allowed to use Blu Tack," he says, looking ruefully at Brookes' walls. "There might still be a no Blu Tack rule..." admits Brookes.

Indeed, traces of Horne's era can still be found if you know where to look. Brookes' fellow JCR committee members were recently clearing out a cupboard in the depths of Sidney Sussex when they found a mysterious document left over from

Horne's days as Ents Officer: the 'Alex Horne Manifesto'. Sadly, its finders did not appreciate its worth and the manifesto has been lost for ever to posterity. "I'm not sure what they did with it," says Brookes diplomatically, now Ents Officer herself. "Straight in the bin," says Horne cheerfully.

Luckily, Horne bears no ill will to this shocking disrespect towards his work (which he claims to have no memory of: if anyone can shed some light, please feel free to let us know). "I loved this room," he says. "It's so central, right above the porter's lodge and under the flagpole. I'm still friends with lots of the people I met here. Oh, and I met my wife Rachel here, too. Though she had a much better room, because she was JCR President. She had a whole suite, so hers was the party room. Mine was more of a chillout space."

My favourite bit is being able to sit and look out for people you vaguely know. It's a brilliant way to procrastinate



Brookes studies in the library, leaving F1 free for fun. “We’ve had a few gatherings here. I brought my brother’s poker set for poker nights. And it’s the perfect place to run up and have another drink after the bar closes and before you go to the club.”

And they both love the view, straight down to bustling Sidney Street. “I don’t mind the noise – in fact, I find it quite comforting,” says Brookes. “My favourite bit is being able to sit and look out for people you vaguely know. It’s a brilliant way to procrastinate.”

For Horne, who lived in F1 during his final year, the room represented the end of one journey and the beginning of something else. “In the first years, it’s all about making friends and trying to work out who you are, it’s a bit chaotic. In the last year, it’s about closure. I’m reminded of the day of my last exam. It was beautiful and sunny, and we all drank champagne or prosecco or whatever, and went to the pub by the river. It was just the best day. I felt like I knew who I was.”

Comedian Alex Horne is creator of the BAFTA-winning *Taskmaster* and frontman of the Horne Section. Third Year Grace Brookes loves Studio Ghibli, playing rugby and population demographics.

PHOTOGRAPHY: POW360



Varsity

Boat Race 2025 clean sweep for Cambridge crews

An oar clash, super-fast conditions and an incredible clean sweep for Cambridge: there’s no doubt that this year’s Boat Race delivered on drama, spectacle and sheer rowing ability.

Cambridge wasted no time in securing two victories on the first day for the 2025 Lightweight Boat Race. Could the Openweights step up too? They surely could. The following day saw Cambridge Women secure their eighth consecutive win, extending their overall record to 49 victories to Oxford’s 30.

The race was stopped initially after an oar clash, but umpire Sir Matthew Pinsent allowed it to resume after a restart.

Then it was time for the Men’s crew to successfully defend their title: they notched up their 88th win (Oxford sit on 81).

Goldie, the Cambridge Men’s Reserve Crew, won the Men’s Reserve Race, while Blondie, the Cambridge Women’s Reserve Crew, won the Women’s Reserve Race.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Deborah Prentice said she was “in awe” of the students’ dedication to the sport and to their studies. “It’s so inspiring. And a complete clean sweep – this was an incredibly impressive showing by Cambridge, I am so proud of them.”

In brief

FOCUS ON DEMENTIA

A new blood test to detect early signs of frontotemporal dementia – and possibly identify treatment to slow or even stop the disease – is being rolled out in a nationwide trial, led by Dr Maura Malpetti, Senior Research Associate in the Department of Clinical Neurosciences.

STUDY FINDS ACCENT BIAS

A new study has found that people with accents perceived as “working class” risk being stereotyped as more likely to have committed a crime – while those with Standard Southern British English accents were perceived as least likely, according to lead author Alice Paver.

SIGNS OF LIFE

Astronomers have found the most promising hints of life outside our solar system yet. Using data from the James Webb Space Telescope, they have detected the chemical fingerprints of two compounds in the atmosphere of the exoplanet K2-18b that, on Earth, are only produced by life. However, they point out that these molecules could have been created by an unknown chemical process in K2-18b’s atmosphere, and further observations are needed to claim a definitive discovery.



www.curatingcambridge.co.uk

The Official Online Store of
the University of
Cambridge, its Museums
and Botanic Garden



Visit us online and explore our amazing range of
prints, gifts and apparel, all inspired by Cambridge.

Every purchase helps support the Museums and
Collections of the University of Cambridge.



www.curatingcambridge.co.uk

Cast in stone

The Scott Polar Research Institute is home to the largest public collection of Inuit art, a fascinating insight into this traditionally nomadic indigenous culture.

WORDS FRANCES HEDGES

Standing sentinel outside the western entrance to Cambridge's Scott Polar Research Institute is a pink granite *inuksuk* – a set of rough stones stacked in the shape of a human figure – originally created by Inuk artist Aqjangajuk Shaa in Canada in the 1960s. But the *inuksuk* is not just there to evoke the Polar environment: in fact, it's part of the UK's largest public collection of Inuit art, housed in the institute's Polar Museum, and a fascinating history of a vibrant indigenous culture.

The *inuksuk* was donated to the museum in the 1970s, part of a collection of Inuit art created by traditionally nomadic people based predominantly in northern Canada, Greenland and Alaska. And some of the oldest pieces in the collection – such as a number of walrus ivory carvings dating from the late 1800s – are on a completely different scale to the *inuksuk*, as Dr David Waterhouse, curator of the Polar Museum, explains. "If you were moving your camp to follow caribou or wild fowl, you wanted small pieces you could take with you – things that were useful as well as beautiful, like carvings on spoon handles," he says.

However, the majority of the museum's collection – acquired through donations, purchases directly from Inuit artists and the occasional new commission – is from the 1950s onwards, when a community of Inuit forced to settle in Kinngait, a hamlet on Canada's Dorset Island, turned to soapstone carving. "As a material, it was cheap, quick to come by and soft enough to carve easily," says Waterhouse.

The works feature beautiful portrayals of Inuit mythology. There are dancing owls, polar bears standing on one leg and various mythological beings – including Waterhouse's personal favourite, a figure of the Inuit sea goddess Sedna, who is half-human, half-mermaid. She's usually depicted without her



fingertips – legend has it that these were cut off and transformed into sea creatures.

Alongside the carvings, the collection houses prints, paintings and drawings. With support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, it has grown to include works by some of the most important figures in the modern Inuit art world – in a wide variety of styles and formats – from almost every producing community in northern Canada, as well as smaller collections of works made in Greenland and Alaska.

For Waterhouse, displaying these artefacts is about more than preserving memories of the past. "We want to include modern Inuit art to ensure the collection continues to keep up with what is happening now," he says,

citing a bomber jacket designed by the indigenous artist Inuktrini as an example of a recent acquisition.

The next step is to get more pieces out of storage and on public display, as well as to co-curate future exhibitions with Inuit participants. The Polar Museum is also currently working with an Alaskan Inuk consultant on an innovative new Indigenous Engagement Policy, establishing a framework by which to engage respectfully and meaningfully with indigenous Arctic communities. As Waterhouse says: "The more we work in partnership, the better."

To find out more, visit the Polar Museum at spri.cam.ac.uk/museum





TRANSLATING CULTURES

Languages are the world's repository of memory and knowledge – and are crucial for establishing our place within it, says Professor Charles Forsdick.

WORDS **MEGAN WELFORD** PHOTOGRAPHY **KATE PETERS**

Renowned modern linguist Professor Charles Forsdick has one big fear: that learning languages is under threat in the UK. “Championing different languages is important for a nation’s global position, as well as its knowledge, memory and even public health,” he says. “The modern linguist starts with language, but they are really interested in the translation of ideas, in translation as driver for the exchange of cultures and ideas.

“Languages carry with them a cultural, social and political subconscious – it’s the hinterland of thought and memory that resides in language that’s interesting. Yet in this country, language learning is under threat – from populism, technology and a ‘monolingual mindset’ that risks leaving us all poorer and more isolated.”

The son of two language teachers, Forsdick’s own fascination with language was perhaps inevitable – “I grew up in Norfolk,” he explains, “which has a reputation for being monolingual and monocultural (and flat!). Languages were exotic. They were a passport out.” But it wasn’t until a year out in Brittany that his future was set. Deep in a Finistère forest, he came across a monument marking the place of death of naval doctor and author Victor Segalen in 1919. He researched the name and was immediately fascinated by this polyglot traveller and exhausted opium addict, who had written beautiful poetry in both French and Chinese.

After a French degree at Oxford, Forsdick’s PhD at Lancaster University focused on Segalen. “He travelled to Polynesia at one stage, and you can see the exoticism of that period coming through in his writing,” says Forsdick. “My passion was travel writing, but I was interested in how French was translated into the radically different culture of Polynesia, and I became drawn to other Francophone countries and regions. French is a global language and

shouldn’t be reduced to France. Haiti is really interesting, for example – the Haitian Revolution happened at the same time as the French Revolution. Haiti was a French colony for 300 years, but has been independent for 220.”

Forsdick’s doctorate swiftly led into a lectureship at Glasgow, and then Liverpool, where he would remain for 22 years. It was here that he became interested in the history of slavery, co-founding the Centre for the Study of International Slavery and taking part in reparations debates. It was also here that he co-founded the Reggae Research Network. “In the 2010s, I was teaching translation studies, the idea that travel is a kind of translation, and examining the new cultural forms that emerge from people moving around the world – as they translate cultures. Reggae is a form of music that is translational in origin – between anglophone and Caribbean cultures – and I find that truly fascinating.”

Now Drapers Professor of French within the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics, as well as Lead Fellow for Languages at the British Academy, Forsdick has his sights set on the threats to our modern perception of language. “Modern languages are not just about the acquisition of language, but can also be about the circulation of ideas. We can see that in the history of medicine and how bodies of knowledge can travel. We forget that our medical knowledge – of physiology, cardiology, the body and wellbeing – came from North Africa and the Middle East in the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries, when thinking in those places was far more advanced than us. That knowledge arrived through translation and transformed our culture.”

Confident in the current status of English as the world’s lingua franca – which history would suggest is a temporary state – he says we overlook other languages at our peril. >



GCHQ and the Ministry of Defence understand that we need to cultivate home languages as a natural resource, because being able to communicate is strategically important. Imposing English alone is a mistake and can squander our global advantage

THE YEAR ABROAD

The Year Abroad is a distinctive and foundational element of the Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics (MMLL) tripos. It provides students with a unique opportunity to be fully immersed in the cultures and languages they study, gaining valuable life experiences as well as professional skills and networks that benefit their future lives and careers.

We need support to ensure that future generations of Cambridge students, regardless of background or circumstances, can have equal access to transformative experiences.

If you are interested in supporting the Year Abroad, contact kara.rann@admin.cam.ac.uk. Or for more information, visit cam.ac.uk/mag105/mml

M
M
L
L

“GCHQ and the Ministry of Defence share this view, as I know from working with them. They understand that we need to cultivate home, heritage and community languages in the UK as a natural resource, because being able to communicate multilingually is strategically important. Imposing English alone is a mistake and can squander our global advantage in terms of knowledge.”

Take Covid. At the start of the pandemic, he says, the medical knowledge was in China, and therefore in Chinese. If you couldn't translate it, you couldn't understand the epidemiology. “And then, when we developed the vaccines, we had to make sure information about them was translated into multiple languages. There was a perception that the solution was biomedical, but the arts and humanities, including languages, were crucial in ensuring trust in and adoption of vaccines – not just for reaching different audiences but understanding how to communicate with them.

“We also saw increased interest in literature relating to disease and confinement – such as Camus' *La Peste* and Xavier de Maistre's *Voyage Autour de Ma Chambre*.” And, of course, one popular lockdown activity was hit language app Duolingo. But this curiosity and appetite for languages among adults is not translated into valorising formal language teaching in the UK, Forsdick says.

And indeed, for language learning, technology can be a double-edged sword. “We can see culture circulating in the increase in popularity of Korean culture due to the Netflix series *Squid Game*, for example. But, in other ways, artificial intelligence like Google Translate can make us think: ‘What's the point of learning a language in school? We can just use Google Translate.’ In reality, using a translation app can be a frustrating experience. Partly because it needs human validation for any nuance, but also because it can amplify the experience of language as a barrier.”

Alongside technological advances, we have also had Brexit, and the rise of populism. “It's social fact that the UK has always been multilingual,” says Forsdick. “We have Welsh, Gaelic and BSL, and English itself is a creole of French. Yet Brexit carries an ideological monolingualism, hypocritically, because some of its advocates were multilingual but projected themselves as monolingual. It breeds linguaphobia, a denial of our own multilingualism.

“What we need instead is a change in policy in language teaching, one that recognises that in our major cities we have super-diverse classrooms where 20 or 30 languages might be spoken. And we could see this as a strength and a national resource, instead of pathologising it. Those bilingual pupils are already agile linguistically, so it's an academic strength. And languages have always been part of our Britishness and our citizenship, they are not something exterior to us. They're not exotic or a threat – they're a part of everyday life for children in Britain today, either speaking them or being surrounded by them. Speaking other languages doesn't mean English suffers, and it helps us understand our place in the world.

“The National Curriculum currently requires substantial progress in a single language at primary level, but we could also move to encouraging a multilingual mindset, where we teach a rudimentary understanding of how different languages work, as a part of cultures, and build curiosity up to Year 6, then move to a choice of languages in secondary school. This might also help challenge the perception of language learning as being difficult. If we don't value and celebrate language learning, not only might we lose our language capabilities – we also risk closing our minds.” ☺

L Half the sky. Billions of objects. In six colours. The Legacy Survey of Space and Time, which begins this year, promises to deliver the first motion picture of the universe, answering some of the most pressing questions about the structure and evolution of our world. But while the questions the LSTT addresses are profound, the concept is remarkably simple: conduct a deep survey over an enormous area of sky to create astronomical catalogues thousands of times larger than previously compiled.

L S S T



WORDS MARK FRARY

Vera C Rubin Observatory

Situated at the summit of Cerro Pachón, Chile, the Vera C Rubin Observatory will capture the cosmos in exquisite detail. Using the largest camera ever built, Rubin will scan the sky for ten years to create an ultra-wide, ultra-high-definition time lapse of our universe.

RUBINOBS/NSF/AURA/W. O'MULLANE



This summer, filming begins – with a stellar cast – on a movie that promises to tell the greatest story of all time. But this is no ordinary project. For a start, there is no director. There will be no cinematic release. And the script isn't finished...

In fact, the Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) is one of the most ambitious projects in the world of astronomy: a mission to capture a moving picture of a billion galaxies, with images of half the entire sky captured every three days over a period of ten years. It promises to provide answers to some of the most pressing questions about the structure and evolution of our universe, including whether dark energy exists, what dark matter is made of, and the ultimate fate of our cosmos. And a cosmologist from the Institute of Astronomy, Professor Hiranya Peiris (Murray Edwards 1994), is playing a starring role.

"Surveys are one of the most fundamental tools we have in cosmology," says Peiris. "A survey is blindly looking at the sky in a representative way so that you can make statements about the evolution of the universe." But this particular survey, dealing as it does in such a vast torrent of data, requires a step change in analysis techniques.

Until recently, astronomers would spot rare events such as supernovae by comparing images taken at two different times and using human expertise to tell the difference between an exploding star and image processing artefacts. Now that time-consuming process will be handed to machine learning algorithms, but to train them, Peiris and collaborators have created highly realistic simulations using all the known classes of objects in the universe, adding frequency and instrumental noise, to create fake LSST data sets. She and colleagues then ran a machine learning challenge through Kaggle, the data science competition platform and online community for data scientists, to stimulate the creation of algorithms that solve this big data challenge.

As well as using machine learning to classify objects, Peiris is using a technique called forward modelling to try to understand which model of the universe is the right one.

"You can realise many mock data sets with different underlying assumptions about how galaxies react with dark matter, and then you compare these fake data sets to the real data to work out which model matches the observed universe," she says.

And it's not just the datasets that are on a grand scale. Shooting this epic has required the development of the largest digital camera ever built. The LSST's camera features a resolution of 3.2 gigapixels, measures three metres long and 1.65 metres wide, and weighs in at 3,000kg.

The camera is attached to the 8.4-metre mirror of the Simonyi Survey Telescope, which sits inside the Vera C Rubin Observatory in northern Chile (named after



R-band filter

One of six filters for LSSTCam, the largest digital camera ever built. Each filter transmits light from a segment of the electromagnetic spectrum, moving from the near-ultraviolet, through the visible range, to the near-infrared.

LLNL/G. MCLEOD



Secondary mirror

The first piece of glass to be installed into its final position, in July 2024, was the 3.5-metre secondary mirror.

RUBIN OBSERVATORY/NSF/AURA/
F. MUNOZ ARANCIBIA

the pioneering American astronomer who revolutionised the understanding of dark matter). And the view from the top of the 2,682-metre El Peñón peak will be of sparkling clarity, with images taken using a set of six rotating colour filters across the entire visual spectrum, but also extending slightly into the ultraviolet and the infrared.

The result is a “wide, very deep and fast” astronomical survey that builds on the pioneering work of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) – advances in technology mean that LSST will be able to reach the depth of observations made by SDSS over its 20-year lifetime in just three days. By looking at the same parts of the sky every three days, Cambridge’s astronomers will be able to capture rare events such as stars going supernova or signposts of compact object mergers, where stellar remnants such as black holes and neutron stars collide, sending the ripples of gravitational waves out across the universe.

For Peiris, it’s the latest giant leap in a lifelong love of astronomy that began early – as a five-year-old in Sri Lanka watching Carl Sagan’s landmark television series *Cosmos*. “I was blown away by the vastness of the ideas and the sweep of time and space,” she says. Her father then brought her back a small telescope from a trip to the UK to take advantage of Sri Lanka’s dark skies through which she saw the moons of Jupiter and Saturn’s rings. She also began reading science fiction novels, particularly those of visionary writer Arthur C Clarke who also lived on the island at the time. “I was in the Young Astronomers’ Association, and he was patron of that,” says Peiris. “He had a library of classic movies in his house which he used to lend to us. The first time I saw *2001: A Space Odyssey* it was his copy.”

Roll forward to Cambridge, where Peiris got an opportunity to work at NASA’s famous Jet Propulsion Laboratory on the Galileo mission as an undergraduate intern, prompting a career switch from computer science to physics. Later during her PhD at Princeton University, she also worked on what Professor Stephen Hawking called “the most exciting development in physics during my career”: the Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP) collaboration. This collected data on the cosmic microwave background radiation that is the cooled down signature of the Big Bang.

“WMAP had enough power within its observational capacity to look at different ingredients in the universe



all at the same time in a comprehensive way. That clarity allowed us to put together a picture of the universe and this picture was really bizarre,” says Peiris.

Emerging from WMAP’s observations was the now widely accepted Standard Model of Cosmology. This says that most of the contents of the universe are not composed of atoms, but rather dark matter and dark energy. “We also found evidence that everything in the universe could have originated in quantum fluctuations in the first instants of the Big Bang,” she adds. On returning to the UK, Peiris worked on the analysis of data from the European Space Agency’s Planck Collaboration, which confirmed WMAP’s results and measured the parameters of the standard model of cosmology precisely.

This brought her to work on the LSST, and while the project’s ‘first light’ images were revealed in July, the first academic findings into what those pictures mean will probably come as soon as next year. “The time it takes to make cosmological statements that blow the current constraints out of the water is actually quite rapid. After about two years, I imagine we will be able to go beyond the state of the art,” she says.

But how can a camera designed to take pictures in visible light help cosmologists better understand dark matter and dark energy which, by their very nature, cannot be seen?

One of the methods being used by LSST to understand dark matter is gravitational lensing. We know from Einstein’s theory of gravity that mass bends light, and galaxies in the universe trace an underlying scaffolding ›



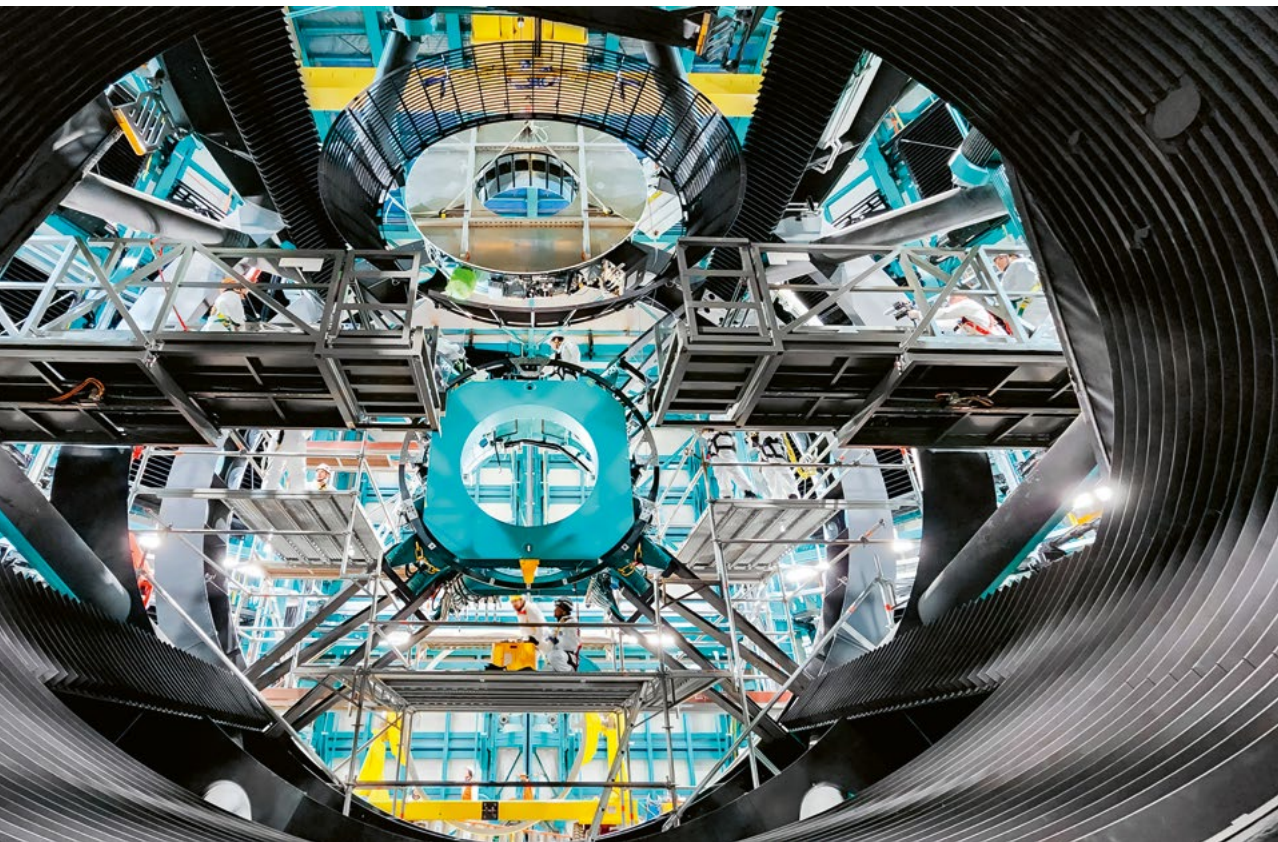


Professor Hiranya Peiris

Professor of Astrophysics at the Institute of Astronomy, Peiris is also a Professorial Fellow and alumna of Murray Edwards College, with a strong commitment to widening access to Cambridge. She is closely involved in outreach to schools to encourage girls and women to get into science, and is determined to break down the systemic barriers that hold women back from achieving their true potential.

If you'd like to support Professor Peiris's research, please contact:
amy.bleasdale@admin.cam.ac.uk

We will use LSST to make an inventory of asteroids in the Solar System, and provide early warning for asteroids that might collide with the Earth in the future



Wish you could delve deeper into your **travel** destinations?

Travel with fellow alumni
and satisfy your thirst for
learning with an expert
academic guide.

From the Amalfi Coast to
Indochina, discover more
of the world beyond the
guidebook with the Alumni
Travel Programme.

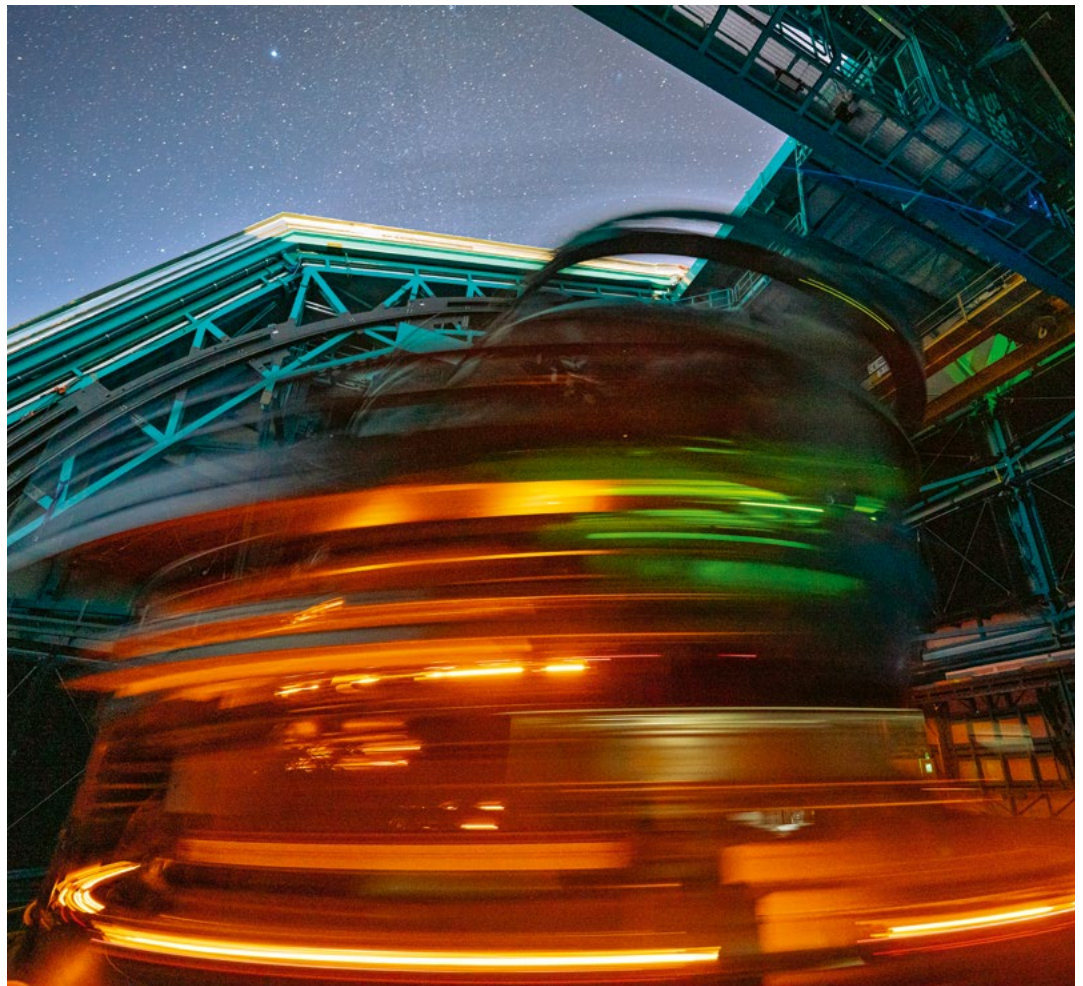




First light

The Rubin team took the first on-sky engineering data with LSSTCam on 15 April 2025.

RUBINOBS/NSF/DOE/NOIRLAB/SLAC/
AURA/HERNAN STOCKEBRAND



Cosmology is multifaceted – we have many different tools to try to work out what dark matter and dark energy are. The difference with LSST is that we are going to leverage them all at the same time

of dark matter that we cannot see. So, if there is a cluster of galaxies (full of dark matter) in the foreground and a galaxy in the background, the light from the background galaxy gets distorted or 'lensed', often creating distinctive arcs or circles of light around the foreground galaxies, sometimes containing multiple images of the background galaxy.

But in cases where the lensing is not so extreme, the shape of the galaxy is very slightly distorted and its image displaced. Multiply that by the billion galaxies that LSST is going to observe, and you can work backwards to see where the dark matter is and how it is evolving over time.

Insight into dark energy will come from capturing supernovae, the fiery explosions that mark the death of stars much bigger than our Sun. Certain types of supernova appear to have the same intrinsic brightness when they explode, and by measuring the apparent brightness of such supernovae in LSST, astronomers can work out how far away they are.

Peiris says LSST may find tens of thousands of gravitational lenses – some of which may also have supernovae going off in them, which could revolutionise cosmology. Such observations may help resolve what is known as the Hubble Tension, a discrepancy in the value

of the rate at which the universe is expanding when you use different methods to calculate it.

"A dream of mine is that we discover enough gravitationally lensed supernovae with LSST to be able to calibrate the distance ladder better, with gravity rather than astrophysics, to investigate the Hubble Tension," Peiris says. "Cosmology is multifaceted and we have many different tools at our disposal to try to work out what dark matter and dark energy are. The difference with the LSST is that we are going to leverage them all at the same time within the same amazing dataset."

As well as looking far out into the universe, LSST will also be making movies closer to home. "We will also use LSST to make an inventory of asteroids in the Solar System," says Peiris, "and in particular to provide an early warning system for asteroids that might collide with the Earth in the future."

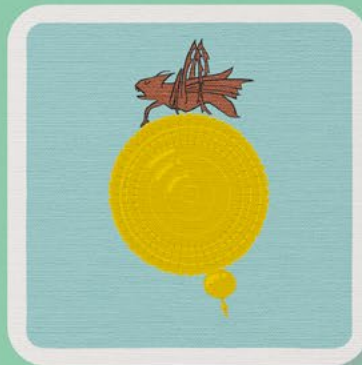
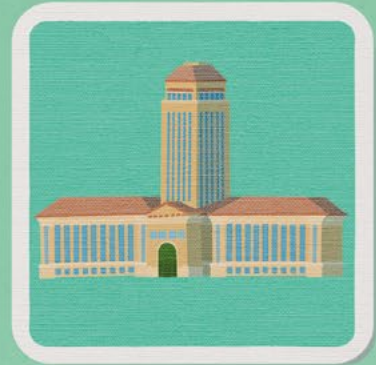
Hollywood has already made *that* movie, but the latest release from the LSST looks set to break all records – and run and run and run. ☺

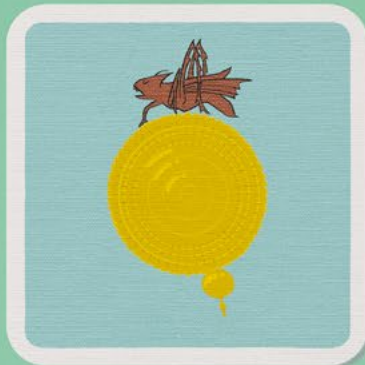
See more Cambridge 'movies' in the Future of Physical Sciences webinar series at cam.ac.uk/mag105/fps

**How many days
hath September,
April, June or
November?
Maybe it's 30
or 31... I've lost
my phone – now
where's it gone?**

Memory is strange: sometimes crystal clear on people and places we came across years ago, often much more cloudy on things that happened just last week. Which is why scientists at the Memory Lab have taken up the challenge: to find out what memory is, how it works and why it is so fundamental to how we make sense of the world.

WORDS LUCY JOLIN ILLUSTRATIONS ADAM NICKEL





Why is it that we can remember the lyrics to that song from 10 years ago – but not where we put the car keys? Memory is strange: we forget important things, remember insignificant details; recall in vivid detail things that happened many years ago, but can't remember why we came upstairs.

So just what is memory? For an easy-to-remember definition, says Jon Simons, Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience and Head of the School of Biological Sciences, you can't beat Cicero's assertion that "memory is the treasure house of all things". It influences... well, *everything*.

"Everything we're conscious of and everything we know is shaped by our previous experiences of the world and the way it works," says Simons. "Our personality and behaviour all develop in ways that reflect things that have happened to us in the past."

Of course, we now know far more about our treasure house – that it's not just one place, for example. Since the advent of functional brain imaging research, we now know that many regions of the brain play a part in memory, from the hippocampus to the parietal lobe regions, which sit just behind our ears. "It's a big network," says Simons. "Regions contribute in different ways depending on the kind of memory task you're performing, the kinds of information you're trying to remember, and whether you're learning new information or retrieving older information."

But while we have a very good understanding of, for example, the bits of our brains involved in remembering a shopping list, we understand far less about the subjective experience of memory – how it *feels* when we remember something. Think back to a vivid experience and you may well be able to remember it in rich detail: the sights, the smells, the sounds. You might feel that you are back there having that experience again. "And that's what I'm really fascinated by," says Simons. "Basically: how do we do that? What are the brain systems and networks that enable us to mentally travel back in time and relive a previous experience as if it is playing out in front of us once again?" ›

This is tough stuff to investigate, because, as he points out, “You’re basically trying to get inside someone’s head.” So Simons has turned to the people who are in fact very good at doing just that: his colleagues in the arts and humanities. The project, When Memories Come Alive, brings together researchers in fields ranging from neuroscience to literature and history to find new ways of thinking and talking about memory.

Dr Martha McGill, a research associate on the project, is an expert on supernatural beliefs in Britain in the early modern period (1500-1800). She’s using 17th-century journals – which tend to focus on the author’s spiritual journey – to better understand how the subjective experience of remembering changes according to the cultural context in which it is embedded. “I’m looking at people’s stories of their memories: how people talked about them, the key features they thought were important to include, how they described their emotions in their memories, how they described sensory input in their memories, and how they thought about or framed the figure of their own self within those memories,” she says.

Improving our memory can enhance everyone’s quality of life. It could help us perform better, and discover more effective ways to learn and retain information

In this framework, human memory is seen as corrupted: the last people to have perfect recall were Adam and Eve before the ‘Fall’. Our unruly animal spirits – semi-corporeal vapours made from rarified blood which travel around our bodies communicating instructions from the soul – provoke memories and can be easily influenced by angels and demons. But we don’t need to worry too much about misremembering: if we are very devout and trust the Holy Spirit to guide us, we will remember perfectly. “The Holy Spirit is essentially taking over: guiding people’s thoughts and purifying the functions of memory so that things come out in a reliable way,” says McGill. “Most of the diaries we have were written by Protestants, but we have some Catholic writing too. One of those, Mary Xaveria, has the apparition of Saint Francis Xavier to help her. He comes back in a ghostly form and helps her memory function. She writes that she remembers nothing when she takes up her pen, but then he comes along and the memories flow out.”

This ‘vividness’ – the visual qualities of memory provoked by Saint Francis Xavier – is a key area of interest for Will Duckett, PhD student at the Department of Psychology. But he is interested in those who *don’t* have it. “Typically, most people will say that they can remember things by ‘seeing’ a picture of them in their head,” says Duckett. “But around six per cent of people have aphantasia: they don’t picture things in their heads when they remember them.” ›







CASTLE ACRE

PRIVATE CLIENT **INSURANCE** BROKERS

Are you paying too much for your Health Insurance?



7/10 of our
clients saved money
and improved cover by
moving their policy, even with
pre-existing health conditions.

For a **free review** of your current cover
contact our Health Insurance Broker:

Ali Adham 0203 966 3614
aliadham@castleacreinsurance.com
www.castleacreinsurance.com



Castleacre Insurance is a specialist independent private client broker.
Bespoke Health and Life policies are amongst a number of insurance
services we offer to our clients.

For wider insurance and risk advice contact Directors
Guy Everington or Hugo Johnsen on 01787 211 155
enquiries@castleacreinsurance.com



NO ORDINARY INSURANCE NO ORDINARY BROKER

Castleacre Insurance Services Ltd registered in England No 5114821 and authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.



Aphantasics demonstrate just how much more we still have to learn about memory. One might imagine, for example, that people who can't remember things visually will have worse memories. Not so, according to research. "There is a mismatch between how vivid imagery is in people's minds and their memory," says Duckett. "Whether you have a strong image in your mind or if you picture nothing at all, people appear to remember equally well across the board."

"For example, if I showed a person an object with three pictures beneath it and asked which of the three pictures represents the object when it is rotated 90 degrees, most people would imagine it rotating in their heads to answer. Aphantasics don't – but they can still do that task. They do it a little slower, but aren't significantly less accurate, and even identify subtle difference better."

Interestingly, Duckett points out, it's estimated that 20 per cent of people in scientific or mathematical careers are aphantasic – while those who have vivid visual recall are over-represented in the arts. It all suggests that experiencing no mental imagery may be beneficial in some careers.

The experiences of aphantasics demonstrates the importance of recognising that memory is subjective, says Duckett. Research has shown that the brain patterns of aphantasics and non-aphantasics are similar. "That's an objective measurement, but their subjective experience is different. It's not 'wrong'."

Delving further into this subjective experience is likely to have a direct impact on many memory-related conditions. Gates Scholar and Second Year PhD student Julia Maybury is interested in episodic memory – memories about events in our lives that tend to involve specific details.

To better understand how we recall such events, she's investigating memory precision, or how well we can remember specific details of retrieved

memory representations at different times of day, and the role sleep might play. "There are pretty big age differences in terms of peak memory performance during the day," she says. "Older adults tend to perform better on memory tasks in the morning, while younger adults perform better in the afternoon and evening."

There are also differences in terms of ageing and sleep, too. Older adults tend to sleep less, says Maybury, and experience a reduction in deep sleep. This decline is important because deep sleep plays a key role in memory consolidation and storage, the process by which memories are transferred from short-term storage in the hippocampus to another brain region – the neocortex – which is associated with long-term storage. However, we might not need to sleep deeply for this to happen, says Maybury.

"I'm beginning to explore the potential benefits of short periods of wakeful rest on the memory. In my study, participants study information and are then asked to sit still in a darkened room

Two people standing close to each other will remember an event differently, simply because we bring so much of ourselves and our previous experience, expectation, knowledge, bias and thinking to bear on the way we encode that experience. And when asked to recount what happened, we bring all these things back into our reconstruction of the event

with their eyes closed for 15 minutes. Then their memory for the learned information is tested. I am interested in whether this period of quiet rest could be as beneficial as a full night of overnight sleep." A deeper understanding of the relationship between memory and sleep will help us design improved ways to remember as we age, she says.

So memory is functional: it enables us to do stuff. But it also makes us who we are: self might influence memory, but memory also influences self, says Simons. "Two people standing close to each other will remember an event differently, simply because we bring so much of ourselves and our previous experience, expectation, knowledge, bias and thinking to bear on the way we encode that experience." And when we're asked to recount what happened, we bring all these things, again, into reconstructing the event.

"And the other side is that our memories therefore influence the things we remember about ourselves – our interactions with the world, our place in the world, the way that we might be perceived by others, our sense of who we are, and our competencies and perhaps lack of competencies," he says. Now, where did I put those keys? ☹



To find out how you can participate in memory research at the University of Cambridge, scan this QR code.

Made in the USA

Americans who come to study at Cambridge stand on the shoulders of giants – but what is it really like to follow your dreams over an ocean to a world of ancient buildings and supervisions, bops and bedders? And what happens next?

WORDS MEGAN WELFORD PHOTOGRAPHY LAUREL GOLIO

Thomas Nelson, Founding Father (Christ's 1758). Robert Oppenheimer (Christ's 1924). Ray Dolby (Pembroke 1951). Milton Friedman (Caius 1954). Sylvia Plath (Newnham 1955). Henry Louis Gates (Clare 1973). Tara Westover (Trinity 2008). Kayla Barron (Peterhouse 2010). Anna Malaika Tubbs (King's 2017).

Americans who come to study at Cambridge are in exalted company, but no two experiences are the same. So what is it about the 'special relationship' between Cambridge and the US that creates such incredible opportunities?

Bill Janeway (Pembroke 1971) says things didn't quite turn out as expected. Returning to his native US, in the final stages of a Cambridge Economics PhD, he assumed that he'd become an academic economist. But the America he returned to was not what he was expecting.

"There was a schism in economics at the time, especially between Cambridge and MIT – and MIT's neoclassicist Paul Samuelson won out," says Janeway. "I had assumed I would become an economics professor in the US, but that meant teaching Samuelson, and I couldn't do it. I interviewed at four top US universities, but while there were jobs, they were all the same jobs, so I wandered into old Wall Street, where there were hundreds of private partnerships. There I had the good fortune to join a firm whose reason to exist was fundamental research on the science-based industries.

"This led me to the computer industry, where my work as an investment banker for emerging companies evolved – after I joined Warburg Pincus – into direct venture capital investing. Making decisions informed by what I'd learned ›





Jasmine Olivera
(Jesus 2019)

Jasmine, a corporate responsibility and sustainability specialist, currently lives in Freeport, New York, a coastal town with a diverse population that she says has a similar energy to her hometown of Brentwood, and helps her stay connected to her Puerto Rican roots.

“Bryant Park is at the heart of NYC’s bustling atmosphere. The area features iconic subways that teach New Yorkers a lot of our street smarts, while connecting us to endless culturally immersive opportunities.”

Julien Reiman
(Trinity 2019)

Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Julien is an Account Director at OpenAI, having previously worked in AI startups, politics and political communications. He finds meaning at the nearby Chabad West Village – and at the gym, continuing a fitness journey that began with the Cambridge Powerlifting Club.

“The West Village is so quiet and quaint – the only place in New York where I can feel truly at peace – just as the quiet, ancient court at Trinity College was where I felt most grounded at Cambridge.”

CAMBRIDGE IN AMERICA

As Cambridge in America (CAm) celebrates its 25th anniversary, it continues to promote interest in, and support for, the University among alumni and friends in North America. Since its creation, CAm has served both the University and Colleges in philanthropy and engagement efforts: it raises philanthropic funds for the Colleges and University programmes; engages North American alumni through content-driven networking events and communication; fosters volunteer participation through more than 40 alumni groups and six advisory committees; and ensures that all gifts and donations are appropriately acknowledged and distributed.

If you'd like to find out more and get involved, visit cantab.org





at Cambridge, I then found myself, 10 years later, managing a portfolio of software startups – two of which were strategic to the commercialisation of the internet, and received amazingly high valuations in the great tech/dotcom boom.”

However, his Cambridge experience was about to intervene in another life-changing way. Janeway had originally wanted to go to Cambridge because of interventionist economist John Maynard Keynes – “I was very taken with his recognitions that economic and financial decisions are made in the face of inescapable uncertainties” – and embarked on a thesis using previously unseen documents about the 1929 Labour government charged with confronting the Great Depression.

Now, because of that thesis, he knew how the online boom would end. “I liquidated my portfolio just before it all burst,” he says. (He would go on to make Cambridge a beneficiary of this financial foresight.)

Janeway, now Chair Emeritus of the Cambridge in America (CAm) Board, claims he was “mainly a spectator” at university, watching, for example, Germaine Greer do a striptease dressed as a nun in one memorable performance of the Pembroke Smokers theatre group. But he also worked alongside Eric Homberger (Queens’ 1965) and Simon Schama (Christ’s 1964), editing *The Cambridge Review*. “We published some interesting things, such as work by the young poet Sylvia Plath.”

Fifty years on, America continues to change and evolve, but author and educator Anna Malaika Tubbs (King’s 2023) feels her place in that world is just as informed by her Cambridge experience as Janeway’s. “Cambridge has allowed me to become one of the voices who can speak about what we are seeing in America today,” she says.

At *The Cambridge Review*, we published some interesting things, such as work by the young poet Sylvia Plath

Cambridge allowed me to become one of the voices who can speak about what we are seeing in America today

Tubbs chose her course in multidisciplinary gender studies because it offered not just women’s studies and literature, but also history and medicine: “It was the most expansive Master’s I could find in the world.” She also stayed on for a PhD, supported by a Gates scholarship, researching what would become her first book *Three Mothers* (of Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and James Baldwin).

“I feel like Cambridge gave me the space to make my degree my own,” she says. “Without that freedom, it could have been stunting. The Gates scholarship supports you to do something good for the world, and Cambridge encouraged my activism. I wonder if elsewhere I would have been seen as not ‘academic enough’, as I wanted to write for a broad audience, but my supervisor Mónica Moreno Figueroa always supported me. Cambridge put so much trust in us as researchers, and in our ability to map out our own plan. My book became a bestseller and I’ve just published my second, *Erased*, about the American patriarchy.”

Final year student Charlize Boul (Trinity 2025) is still immersed in this world. “My family moved to Bedford, near London, when I was 16, from the North Carolina coast. The ‘Southern hospitality’ cliché is real, and I was as open and chatty as I’d been back home, but the reaction was different. Soon I was wondering: ‘Why does everybody hate me?’! People told me: ‘They’re just getting to know you before they decide if they want to be friends with you,’ and this made no sense to me. Why not start by being sociable?”

“It wasn’t the same at Cambridge. No one is normal here! And that’s because they’re so passionate about what they do, they’re so invested in their subject, they’re less polite and standoffish.”

Still, there were idiosyncrasies to adjust to in her undergraduate study of Classics. “The plodges, pidges and the gowns – which my family still call my Harry Potter robes. >

And don't even get me started on College spouses – how it becomes normal to say: 'Yes that's my College wife, we just adopted an Engineer.' But I'm working it all out: I was in the Bumps last year – I didn't want to row, but they were appealing for a cox, saying: 'We need people who are small and loud', and all eyes turned to me. I was chosen against the odds – I don't have hand-eye co-ordination except when I'm on a rudder – but I loved it."

Rowing was one of the main reasons Daphne Martschenko (Magdalene 2019) chose Cambridge, as well as its MPhil in Politics, Development and Democratic Education. She would become the first Black rower ever to compete in the Boat Race, in 2015. But when she arrived at Cambridge, she found the facilities a little different to her previous alma mater, Stanford. "The Cambridge women basically rowed out of a tiny shed," she laughs, a little bitterly. "There were no showers or hot water or heating... or even a kettle!"

Now Assistant Professor at the Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics, Martschenko looks back and sees it all as 'character-building'. "If anything seems tough to me now, I think about the fact that I would get up at 5am, cycle to the train station, go to Ely, jog to the boat shed and get started. Often in the rain. And I absolutely apply the skills I learned every day," she says. "Those include time management, showing up when you say you will, being accountable, taking criticism and adapting to it. My PhD in bioethics was self-driven, so I learned to advocate for myself, be independent in my work, and pursue my research interests without fear. My supervisor, Anna Vignoles, was fantastic. She taught me to admit what I don't know – and have the curiosity to find it out."

The Cambridge women rowed out of a tiny shed, there were no showers or hot water or heating... or even a kettle!

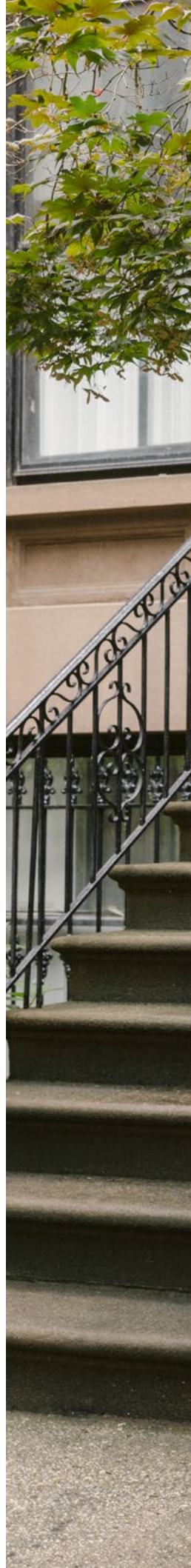
It was the sheer brilliance of the people I met that I loved – the intelligence and questioning, the rigour

For CAM Board Vice-Chair Marc Feigen (St John's 1985), it was the "intellectual excitement" Cambridge awoke in him that shines through now he's back home – something that persists to this day. A Thouron scholar, he says Cambridge changed his life. "The Thouron rescued me," he says. Having spent four years at Penn University – "a pre-professional culture" – the pressure on him to become a lawyer was overwhelming.

"But at Cambridge, I found myself staying up all night debating the existence of God!" He did one year as an affiliated student reading the History Tripos Part II, and then one year as an MPhil in International Relations, and found a routine where "every day ended with music at Evensong, and every evening began with wine".

Having previously barely left the US, he now met people from all over the world. "It was the sheer brilliance of the people I met that I loved," he says. "The intelligence and questioning, the rigour. It's why I have so many books on my shelves today." Feigen abandoned the law and went on to counsel businesses to innovate. "I drew on what I learned at Cambridge, which is that a good theory is there to be challenged. I also learned a universal common humanity – that we all have similar dreams and needs. After two and a half years at Cambridge, my father told me: 'If you don't come home for Christmas, you're in trouble.' Later, he would ask: 'Why are all your friends English?' But it's because the friends I made at Cambridge are still my best friends today." ©

To keep in touch with fellow American Cantabrigians and find out the latest news, sign up to the Cambridge in America newsletter at cantab.org





Nancy Yoo
(St Edmund's 2015)
and husband **Marc Jansen**
(Downing 2011)

Nancy, who grew up in Queens and now works in AI Product Marketing at JP Morgan, met Dutch research scientist Marc at Cambridge. Their favourite memories of university involve formal dinners (Nancy) and summer afternoons in Grantchester (Marc).

"When we started exploring possible areas to move to in NYC we were sold immediately by Brooklyn Heights. Leafy streets, beautiful brownstones, views of Manhattan from the promenade – it's a privilege to live here."



AT YOUR SERVICE

Skipper a patrol vessel in open sea. Climb mountains. Learn to fly. Every year, Cambridge students join one of the three societies affiliated with the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force – often the beginning of a lifelong adventure.

WORDS PETE WATTS PHOTOGRAPHY JULIAN ANDERSON



Hugo Barraud (Selwyn, Fourth Year) studies Classics and is part of the Cambridge University Officers' Training Corps, an Army Reserve unit that offers basic officer training and outdoor activities.

Brigadier Clare Phillips CBE (Robinson 1991) has been deployed to Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan, became the British Army's first female Corps Colonel, represented the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at hockey and rugby, and earned herself a CBE. But where did it all begin? At Cambridge, of course.

Towards the end of her second year, Phillips began to wonder what would come next – and was not inspired by what she found at career fairs. “One of my best friends was at Newnham and came back from a visit to Sandhurst where she'd driven a tank, fired a rifle and played a lot of sport,” she says. “I thought that sounded perfect.”

Phillips signed up, spending the Easter of her third year on deployment to Cyprus while her friends were preparing for exams. And that made sense, says Phillips, because when it comes down to it, Cambridge life and Army life are

not so different. “The fundamentals are the same. You work hard and play hard. If you are involved in societies, you learn the fundamentals of leadership and organisation. It encourages you to think about how you conduct yourself. I had been to state school so things like communal living were entirely new to me, and these are very similar to Army life. Even the exposure to some of Cambridge's traditions – balls, gowns, dinners – helped me understand what was expected in the Army.”

Indeed, for some students, service life is not separate from, but an integral part of, the university experience. While most students are spending another quiet Tuesday evening working on essays, watching telly or sitting in the student bar, you'll find Hugo Barraud (Selwyn, Third Year) at Coldhams Lane using a virtual firing range, practising first aid or learning how to build a defensible campsite. ›



As a senior under officer for Cambridge University Officers' Training Corps (CUOTC), Barraud is part of an organisation run by the British Army to give students a commitment-free taste of military life.

"There are so many great opportunities," he says. "Ten days ago, I was skiing for the first time in my life, showing the potential of student life. At the weekend, I don't have to think about my degree, and I can get out of the Cambridge bubble. When I get back and talk to my friends about what we did at the weekend, I usually have an interesting story to tell."

It's a similar story – albeit on a Wednesday evening and this time on the water – for Acting Midshipman Joanna Burgess (St John's, Third Year). She is a member of the Cambridge University Royal Naval Unit (Cambridge URNU) – the Navy equivalent of CUOTC – having joined at her first Freshers' Fair, and is now paid to kayak, paddleboard and sail as an official reservist. "We might do navigation or first aid or learn to cook with a Royal Marine," she says. "We have regular weekend trips, where we travel down to Sandhurst to go shooting or go to the Norfolk Broads. Recently, I went to Sicily for a conference with people from Ukraine, Canada and Georgia."

The armed forces have a longstanding connection with Cambridge, through these reserve units as well as via nearby military bases. But it's not just the British military which is associated with the university. When American student and future F-16 pilot Zach Stiffler (Caius 2019) decided to take up rowing for his College, one of the first things he spotted at the boathouse was a set of oars with the name of John Lehman, a former Secretary of the US Navy, who had been at Cambridge in the 1960s. That planted a seed. After graduating, Stiffler took a break from flying missions with NATO to form the Oxford and Cambridge Armed Forces Alumni Network.





One of the most incredible aspects of Cambridge is how it fosters community and shared learning. Learning doesn't end in the classroom. The military has that same approach, so combining the two is pretty awesome



The organisation is open to armed forces members from any time or nation, as a way of sharing memories and experiences. It's currently online but Stiffler hopes to organise physical meet-ups – ideally back at Cambridge. “I loved my experience in Cambridge – the people, the opportunities, the dinners, the lectures,” says Stiffler. “It changed me as a person. One of the most incredible aspects of Cambridge is how it fosters community and shared learning. Learning doesn't end in the classroom. The military has that same approach, so combining the two is pretty awesome.”

There are three main ways in which the armed forces connect with the University: existing personnel take in-service degrees to help develop their careers; recruits fresh from school are sponsored to do a degree before joining their regiments full time; and students like Burgess and Barraud join the CUOTC, URNU or the RAF's equivalent, the Cambridge University Air Squadron. These units are all drop-in, but participants get paid for their training. They are supported by the armed services, but without any obligation to join up after graduation – and with the proviso that participation does not interfere with a student's work.

Barraud and Burgess relish the weekend manoeuvres and the longer end-of-year expeditions that take them to distant parts of the UK, as well as formal dinners where they meet more experienced military personnel. A more recent initiative has been socials involving all three branches of the Cambridge organisations to encourage cross-service mixing. And these are all national as well as local organisations, so students get to meet students who share similar interests across the country.

Colonel Jon Lowe (Girton 1996) was already sponsored by the Royal Engineers when he went to Cambridge, but through the CUOTC was able to maintain a military education alongside his academic life and sporting interests (he was a cricket Blue). It was on a CUOTC exercise that he first discovered the Army Air Corps, with whom he served as a helicopter pilot. Lowe explains that the CUOTC and its sister organisations need to strike a delicate balance – on the one hand providing a meaningful introduction to military life but also competing with so many other University clubs and societies. Which basically means they need to be fun.

“We did weapon handling, map reading – basic military stuff,” he says. “Once a month we'd have a weekend exercise when you'd live out in an Army context, which means being tactical and secure. You'd also use ranges to fire live ammunition. That sort of thing appealed to my friends so I managed to persuade a number of them to join the OTC with me.”

Sir Nick Pope (Jesus 1981) is one of Cambridge's most distinguished military alumni. He served in Bosnia and Afghanistan, reached the rank of Lieutenant General and acted as Deputy Chief of the General Staff – essentially No 2 in the British Army. He arrived at Cambridge having >



Looking to make new Cambridge connections?

With Alumni Groups based on who you are, what you do and where you are, you'll be sure to find your Cambridge community.

Join an Alumni Group to network and socialise with new Cambridge connections.





Cambridge University Officers' Training Corps

The CUOTC offers students Reserve Officer training modules designed to fit around their degrees, learning everything from how to wear a uniform correctly to the ability to lead others in stressful situations. Students go on expeditions, develop transferable skills and take part in sporting events and social activities, with the added bonus of being paid. CUOTC students have no commitment to a career in the Army after university, but a number of bursaries are available for those who decide to follow that path.



signed up as a cadet with a pledge to return to the Army upon completing his studies. After three gruelling weeks of physical training at Sandhurst prior to 'going up', he maintained his fitness at Cambridge through hockey, rugby and weekly evenings with the CUOTC.

As a member of the armed forces, Pope was at Cambridge on a salary – something that set him apart from his more impoverished peers. "You are what is known in military parlance as a 'one-pip wonder', but you think you are rich as you are paid to go to university," he recalls. "You are both a student and a soldier, and it's about the intersectionality as you switch between the two. We are all seeking comradeship and belonging and for a lot of people, spending every Tuesday evening at Coldhams Lane gives them their tribe, where they get to run around in funny uniforms with their friends and generally have a great experience."

That shared army experience also helped break down some of the social barriers between students, and through the military, Pope – who went to state school – became acquainted with no less a figure than Prince Edward, a couple of years below him at Jesus and a fledgling Royal Marine. "I ended up being his taxi driver for rugby matches," says Pope. "We had that military connection, and it was enough to break the ice. The military provides a framework for finding like-minded people."

But there is, of course, much more than relationship-building or CV-enhancing on offer, which is what keeps Joanna Burgess coming back. She probably won't join the Royal Navy when she finishes her degree, but she does intend to remain a reservist for the foreseeable future. "What really attracts people is that we combine a lot of different activities in one," she says. "We do hiking, sailing, shooting... a lot of activities but in one organisation. That's something you can't find anywhere else. I have managed to persuade a few friends to come to evenings as people are really amazed by the range of things we get to do – and the fact we get paid for it as well. They find it quite fascinating." ☺

Find out more about the Oxford and Cambridge Armed Forces Alumni Network and other alumni groups at cam.ac.uk/mag105/gro

“When people feel pressure and they want to step up, that’s where I come in”

Dr Dana Sinclair’s work in performance psychology has been changing sportspeople’s lives for more than 35 years.

WORDS ISOLDE WALTERS PHOTOGRAPHY KIM WALTER

The presence of sports psychologists in and around elite teams is very much taken for granted these days, but things were quite different when Dr Dana Sinclair (Hughes Hall 1990) started her career.

“Thirty-five years ago, you had to be quite entrepreneurial and make your own way. I began working with the NHL (National Hockey League) and the NBA (National Basketball Association) in the late 1990s, and I had to go and figure out how to do that myself. People weren’t doing this work at the time, and certainly not women.”

A former athlete herself – she played national field hockey and ice hockey (she earned her Half-Blue at the Varsity match in 1992) – Sinclair says working with sportspeople can be challenging but enormously rewarding. “I love watching my clients perform and do well,” she says. “I’m in tunnels at stadiums, on sidelines, under the floodlights, in hallways and equipment rooms – it can be a very joyous experience.”

Sinclair left her native Vancouver for Cambridge in 1990 to undertake a second PhD, in Experimental Psychology, and work as a junior research fellow at Hughes Hall. “I loved the intellectual exercise,” she recalls. “Cambridge gave me the confidence to step out and take on all that I wanted to try to do. To really think big and just go do it. Although I do also remember crashing a few May Balls – that was fun too!”

She returned to Vancouver to carve out a career in the largely unheard-of field of performance psychology. “There are so many people who are talented, but if they can’t pull it together for the deadline or they are blocked by tension and lack of focus, they’re not going to be able to access that

talent,” she says. “You have to be able to shift your mindset when you drift into tension and worries.”

Indeed, mindset shift has become Sinclair’s specialism. She’s worked with athletes in all of North America’s professional sporting leagues, as well as Olympians, surgeons, business executives, high-profile actors and even adolescents struggling with exams.

“It’s anybody and everybody who wants to perform just a little bit better. When people are feeling pressure and they want to step up, that’s where I come in. No matter what you do or who you are, the same kind of distractions pop up for all of us. My job is to learn what the hot spot or ‘derailer’ is for each person and help them settle, control and manage their tension so they can refocus on what to do in the moment – it’s as simple as that.”

She recalls working with a World Cup skier who had crashed and almost died. Miraculously, he recovered and made a return to skiing, with help from Sinclair to face the mountain again. “It was about getting through certain sections where he had crashed and all the trauma that came with it. We worked through it and we figured out how he would keep his focus, especially through the most treacherous portions. He came back to the World Cup scene with great success.”

Having published her first book, *Dialed In: Do Your Best When It Matters Most*, to great acclaim last year, she is now working on a second, in which she interviews leading figures in their field about how they overcame setbacks and navigated challenging points in their careers.

And her own top tip for performing under pressure? “Slow down,” she says, without hesitation. “Learn how to settle. Learn how to soothe yourself in five to ten seconds. That can just be telling yourself: ‘Hey, come



Dr Dana Sinclair at Mets Citi Field with Earvin 'Magic' Johnson – former NBA All-Star and part-owner of the LA Dodgers.



Everybody's always talking about confidence. 'I can't do this if I'm not confident.' That's not true at all. You might want it, but you don't *need* it. Confidence is unreliable – it's about how you feel. Performing well is about what you do

on, breathe slowly, exhale longer, get your shoulders down.' Reconnect to your task."

And don't obsess over confidence. "Everybody's always talking about confidence. 'I can't do this if I'm not confident.' That's not true at all. You might want confidence, but you don't *need* it. Confidence is unreliable – it's about how you feel. Performing well is about what you do."

Although she describes her role as a mix of therapist and coach, she prefers to call herself a consultant. "I don't do full-on traditional therapy work and I don't do the traditional coaching work either. My philosophy is to help people become independent, self-directed performers, to help them work out what gets in the way of them being great and then understand what to do the next time they feel tension rising. It takes courage to try to be good. When you really want something, it can be scary."

Dr Dana Sinclair is founder and partner of Human Performance International. Her new book, *Dialed In: How to Perform Under Pressure*, is out next year.

This idea must die: “Libraries are just about books”

Dr Jessica Gardner, University Librarian and Director of Library Services at Cambridge University Libraries, says people are at the heart of the library evolution.

INTERVIEW PETE WATTS ILLUSTRATION GEORGE WYLESOL

What is a library? Rows and rows of books, right? Perhaps with some digital artefacts? But actually, libraries are about people. Our role at the UL is to facilitate the astonishing learning, teaching and research that takes place here at Cambridge – we aspire to be the emotional and intellectual heart of the University.

For that we need books, of course. The UL has been one of the UK’s legal deposit libraries since 1710. That means we contain one copy of every book published in the UK and Ireland. But we also need so much more. When we reopened after lockdown, one student told me that “being in the library is doing university” and I loved that. It is reflective of the scholarly tradition associated with a university library like Cambridge, but also a reminder that we are here for our students, for our academics and for the broader community.

Our library is an intrinsic part of the in-person experience at Cambridge. We see our students throughout that academic season, from their first steps in becoming a Cambridge student to their final exams and beyond. And they need a whole range of spaces throughout that period of study. There are times when they want to sit informally and socially to share ideas, so we offer places for group study. But we also offer places that are quiet and free of distraction. We meet all those needs because we are about people, connecting ideas to create

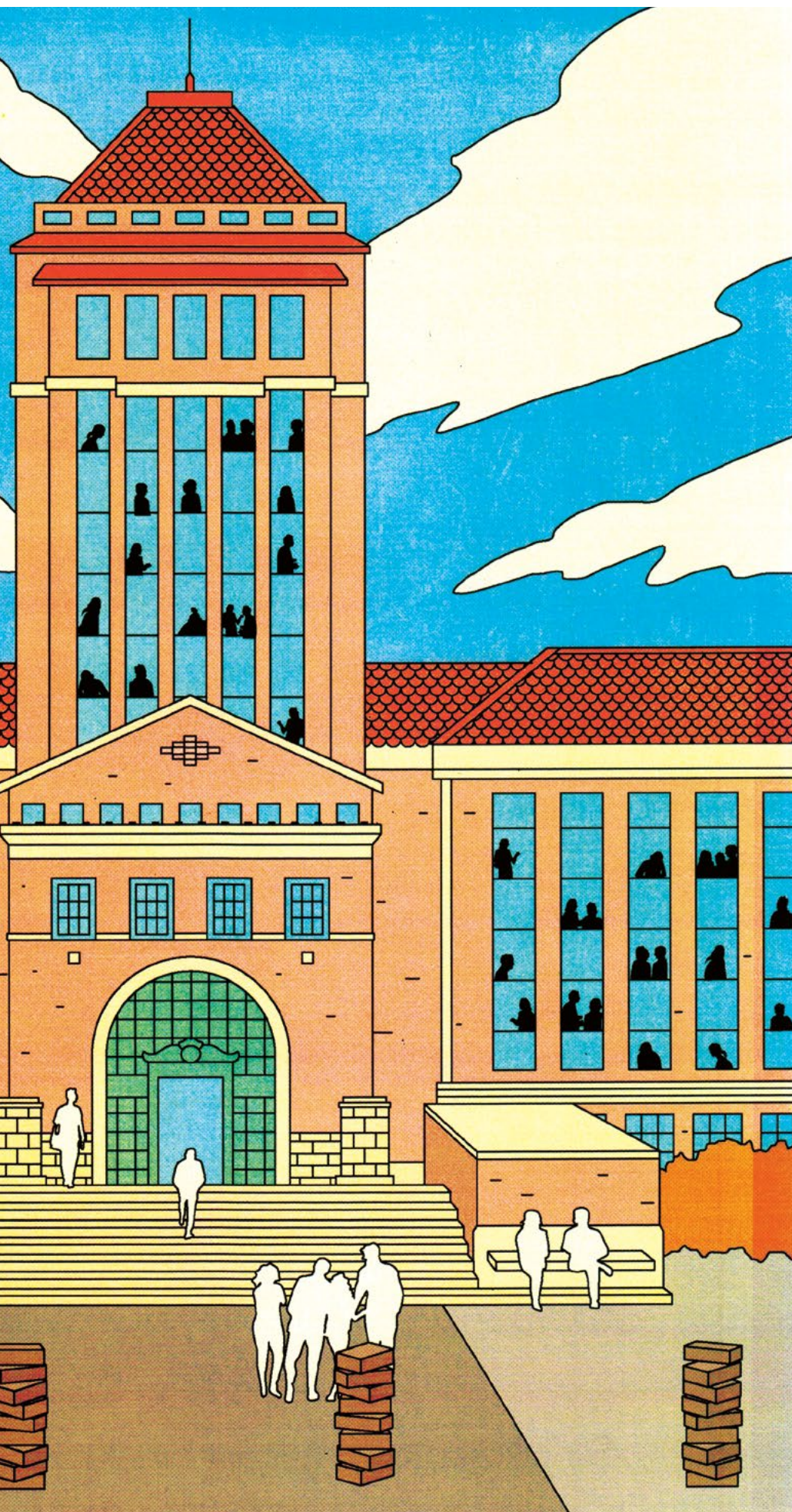
new knowledge that we then share through the academic and social infrastructure.

And we have an important role as a civic centre. A third of our users are from the city, and we host exhibitions and public events, including the Really Popular Book Club where we celebrate books like *The Da Vinci Code* with both casual readers and experts in medieval manuscripts. We started that online during the pandemic and it is so popular we have continued it ever since.

We still receive phenomenal quantities of books – three kilometres of them every year – but that volume is outnumbered by the millions of books and articles in digital formats. A huge part of our work is now about digital preservation. We have a wonderful conservation studio that knows exactly what to do with velum, parchment, bone, papyrus and paper, but digital conservation is just as essential. We have a forensic digital lab for things like floppy discs to ensure that information remains accessible as formats change.

We are also the archive for all Cambridge PhDs and research by great minds who changed the world – the likes of Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Stephen Hawking. When we put Hawking’s PhD online a few years ago it almost broke the internet. We also engage in research ourselves, and continue to collect new archives. Recently we acquired the *Poems on the Underground* archive, as well as that of the 80s political satire *Spitting Image*. During





We meet a range of needs because we are about people, connecting ideas to create new knowledge that we then share through the academic and social infrastructure

Covid, we collected people's contemporary accounts of the pandemic – these will be essential evidence for future historians, sociologists and psychologists.

Libraries are spaces where you have no obligation to buy anything (although I do love a snack and a coffee in the tearoom). You can pick up a book or turn on the laptop and be free to think – with no constraints. That is the absolute embodiment of academic freedom of thought and expression. You might encounter ideas that challenge, excite or upset you and you have the space to think about those ideas freely. It was through my love of books as a child that I realised libraries were the route to knowledge, and we now provide access to the widest possible perspectives to teach critical appraisal of the ideas our students encounter.

So books, yes, but not just books. We want our students to have the skills to navigate this age of disinformation with no restrictions from ourselves – and we want them to feel free to challenge our own ways of thinking – after all, libraries show the possibility of a life beyond our own circumstances.

Alumni can still access the University Library after leaving Cambridge; visit alumni.cam.ac.uk/benefits/university-library to find out more. To discuss how you can support the University Library, get in touch with Amy Reeve, Senior Associate Director at amy.reeve@admin.cam.ac.uk



Alumni festival

Fancy a weekend of discovery
and intellectual adventure?

Join us in Cambridge
26-28 September.

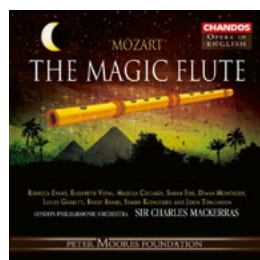


ALUMNI FESTIVAL

I slept through the whole concert – my reputation went up in flames that day.

Despite one minor setback, Mary Bevan's experience with music at Cambridge convinced her that it could one day become her career.

INTERVIEW LUCY JOLIN



The Magic Flute, Act 2: Behold, the harbinger of morning
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,
Sir Charles Mackerras, London
Philharmonic Orchestra and
Three Boys, 2005

I got involved with the Cambridge University Opera Society (CUOS) production of *The Magic Flute* almost as soon as I arrived. It was my

first operatic experience at the University, and it was incredible – I met people that I still work with now, including Allan Clayton (St John's 2000) who became a very good friend. He was singing the main role, Tamino, and I was in the chorus, but I remember thinking that, one day, I really wanted to sing Pamina to his Tamino. Four years later, I did! It was a wonderful way to settle into Cambridge life and it was perhaps the first time it clicked in my brain that maybe – maybe – one day I could do this as a job.



Ave Maria, Op. 9b
Gustav Holst, Graham Ross
and The Bevan Family, 2023

In my third term, Dan Hyde (King's 2000), who is now Director of Music at King's, arranged a big concert with some of the best female voices across the whole University – sopranos and altos from all the College

choirs. I was in the University Chamber Choir and was asked to participate, which was a big honour. I was given the very top line in *Ave Maria*, a very high-pressure piece. We rehearsed for weeks and weeks, but the concert was scheduled for the day after May Week Sunday. I went to bed at 5am on Monday morning, woke up at 2pm and found 18 missed calls on my phone. I'd slept through the whole concert. I'm pretty sure my reputation went up in flames from that day, and it made me realise that I could either do a concert or go out and have fun – but not both. I saw Dan Hyde recently when I came to do a Mozart Requiem at King's Chapel, and we laughed about it so I think he's forgiven me. (I've picked a version performed by my family choir, with me on the top line, but not hungover this time!).



Heartbeat
Annie (Anniemal, 2004)

Nobody has heard of this song except me! It's just a great pop song from the 2000s and I don't even know how it came onto my radar. It was always the song my friends and I listened to when we were getting ready for a girls' night out.

Nobody had any money, so we'd buy a bottle of cava for £7 and then let everyone know: "Cava reception tonight at 7!"

Singing with the Opera Society was the first time it clicked in my brain that maybe – maybe – one day I could do this as a job



The Marriage of Figaro, Susanna's Aria
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

By my third year, all my friends were going for all these big jobs in banking and law, and I felt a bit lost. CUOS were putting on *The Marriage of Figaro*, and I got the main role, Susanna, and I threw everything I had into it. We had rehearsals every day,

and I could feel the improvement happening in real time. On the opening night, I remember just feeling so at home on stage, it felt like I'd clicked into doing exactly what I wanted to do. I didn't miss going out and having fun because I was having so much fun as a singer. It was a massive turning point, and I never looked back.

British soprano Mary Bevan (Trinity 2003) is internationally renowned in baroque, classical and contemporary repertoire and appears regularly with leading conductors, orchestras and ensembles around the world. She is a winner of the Royal Philharmonic Society's Young Artist Award and UK Critics' Circle Award for Exceptional Young Talent in music and was awarded an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours list in 2019.



DOMAISELA: A peaceful, restorative, and revitalizing exclusive stay in the heart of the Périgord Natural Regional Park, France.

Come to refocus and reconnect: carefully

renovated to high ecological standards, the house and its original stone barn have been transformed into a natural regenerative retreat. Surrounded by meadows, orchards, perennial gardens, ponds, coppices, and aromatic and medicinal plants, it's the perfect place to immerse yourself in the living, productive earth.

Accommodation options include bed and breakfast or self-catering. Facilities: shower, large study/rest room, kitchen, BBQ, terrace, dry toilets, solar power, wastewater treatment through phytoremediation, and stunning views.

Bespoke activities (subject to availability) include: Finnish sauna (in the old bread oven), gym, yoga, massage, Pilates, permaculture, plant-based learning, archery, and watercolor painting.

Contact: Karen – ks.nash@cantab.net / +33 651 18 73 90



beyond : limits

V: bay tree
smart : resourcing

**Outsourced
operational support**

A timely solution to
your resourcing needs

Do what you do best and
outsource the rest

standingby@baytreeva.co.uk
www.baytreeva.co.uk

The Dating Site for Oxbridge People

"On my third Blues Match date, I met someone with whom I clicked almost immediately. We've been seeing each other ever since."

"My reason for leaving is that I am to be married - to a girl I met through Blues Match."

"Joined Blues Match early August. Spotted my future husband within an hour. Engaged 6 weeks later. Wedding booked for April."

"I have met the woman of my dreams. And I met her on Blues Match."

Join free at:

BluesMatch.com



To advertise in CAM, the
flagship Alumni Magazine of
the University of Cambridge,
please contact Russ Joy:



russ.joy@cplone.co.uk

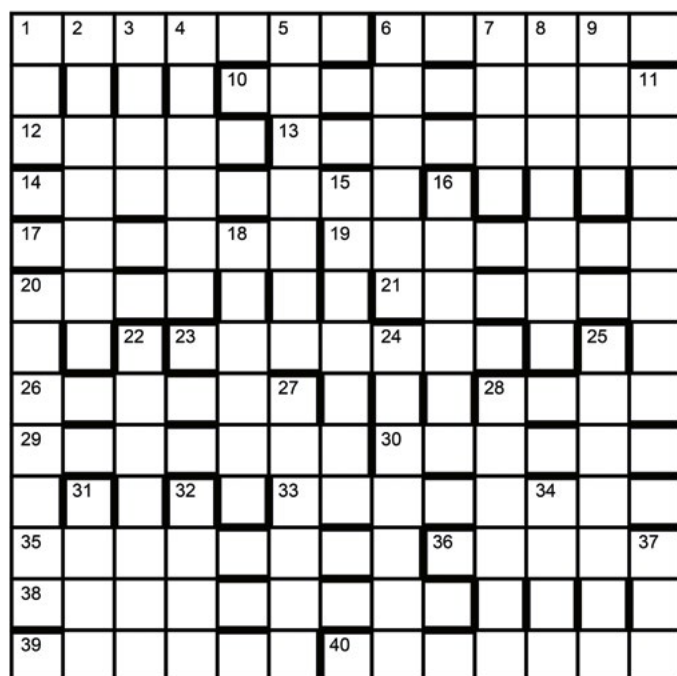


01223 378024

Changing Course

by Nimrod

Wordplay in most clues ignores 1, 2 or 3 non-consecutive letters of the defined answer; these letters must be highlighted in the grid. Each of the remaining eight clues contains a superfluous word. First and last letters of these words spell, in one case N-S and in the other S-N, two synonyms for the puzzle's key five-letter word, to be written under the grid. **36** is in *Collins*.



KEY WORD: _____

Across

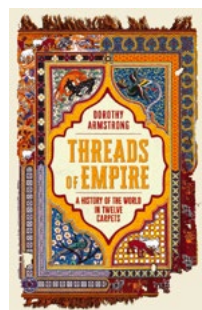
- 1 Fleshy detectives behind a reading? (7)
- 6 Did modelling work in retirement compound (6)
- 10 Set about escaping from horribly stressful conditions (9)
- 12 Places of debauchery recalled by groups (5)
- 13 A lure not completely heartless (8)
- 14 Knight bachelor blagging change from a tenner (8)
- 17 Left to do rounds, independent of Gurkhas? (6)
- 19 Divers rig up a canoe (7)
- 20 Supreme crests visible at intervals (4)
- 21 First-rate copper shot (6)
- 23 Shaft new London GP taking up residence in post (7)
- 26 Blade, Spenser's brand, finally sheathed (6)
- 28 Supplement for school meals (4)
- 29 Situation in which church forfeited property? (7)
- 30 Urchin hurt cycling (6, 2 words)
- 33 Harassment disgraced legend receives in Uni (8)
- 35 Rough finale in rough run (8)
- 36 Swimmer number two (5)
- 38 Artistic movement that is dull and spiritless (9)
- 39 Make very happy link (6)
- 40 CAM contributors given unique conditions (7)

Down

- 1 Discover America (3)
- 2 Hunter heartlessly dealt with after glimpse of Artemis (7)
- 3 Waterfall followed a course (4)
- 4 Teeth, 100, all there on counter (6)
- 5 Popular drinking song of the tragic flier (7)
- 6 Imaginative games viewed on Twitch (6)
- 7 Archbishop sent announcement of degree class (4)
- 8 A not entirely lenient fine (7)
- 9 Scottish pork lard is revolting! (4)
- 11 Terns specifically run? It's true (7)
- 15 Mineral spa's centre to die for invigorating tourists close to Harrogate (7)
- 16 Injury blow in Switzerland after receiving rugby emoji (6)
- 18 Teaches Scots electronic input to extraordinary laser review (6)
- 20 Following resistance knight thus picked up Kane's last word (7)
- 22 The reverse of formulaic expression covers public performance (7)
- 24 In consideration of dry book (7)
- 25 Once gentlemanly knight lances invader (7)
- 27 Play with Duke and Earl (6)
- 28 Special gift, being on wagon full of beer! (6)
- 31 Giving up fencing, one's old cut and thrust (4)
- 32 Extract from divisive yet daring holy book (4)
- 34 Feel a desire for Wilhelm I (4)
- 37 Brilliant song (3)

All entries to be received by 3 October 2025. Send your entry:

- **by post to:** CAM 105 Prize Crossword, University of Cambridge, 1 Quayside, Bridge Street, Cambridge CB5 8AB
- **online at:** alumni.cam.ac.uk/magazine
- **by email to:** cameditor@alumni.cam.ac.uk



The first correct entry drawn will receive a £75 CUP book token and a copy of *Threads of Empire* by Dorothy Armstrong, a "spellbinding, beautiful, sensuous and enigmatic" look at the history of the world through the stories of 12 carpets. Two runners-up will receive a £50 CUP book token. Solutions, winners and runners-up will be published in CAM 106 and online on 20 October 2025 at: alumni.cam.ac.uk/magazine

Solution to CAM 104 Crossword

A Leisurely Pursuit

Extra letters give THE ART OF WALKING THE STREETS OF LONDON, the subtitle of John Gay's poem *TRIVIA* (the unclued thematic answer), which links the Trivium (GRAMMAR, LOGIC, RHETORIC), the Roman Viae (APPIA, AURELIA, FLAMINIA), Chambers phrases with "Via" (FERRATA, LACTEA, MEDIA) and indications of Paul Simon's "Ways to Leave Your Lover" (BACK/JACK, KEY/LEE, PLAN/STAN).



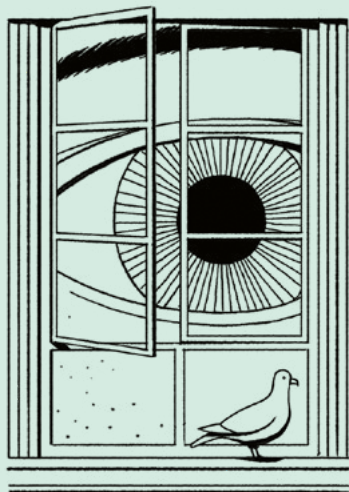
CAM 104 winner: Hywel Carver (King's 2004) **Runners-up:** Frances Williams (Newnham 1970) and Oliver Phillips (Caius 2000)

Search it up!

Your directory to alumni life: events, benefits and updates.

Alumni Festival 2025

The programme is now live – we'd love you to experience it so now is the time to start planning your weekend. The 2025 Alumni Festival will take place from Friday 26 to Sunday 28 September, and we can't wait to see you there!



Careers Service

Wherever you are in your career journey, the Careers Service has the tools to help you move on. Access practical advice to help you build your CV and browse a wealth of resources on different industry sectors. Register with the Handshake platform to connect with students and fellow alumni. To find out more, visit alumni.cam.ac.uk/benefits/careers-service

Alumni Travel Programme

Embark on a journey of endless exploration with the Alumni Travel Programme, and discover an incredible variety of the world's most breathtaking destinations. Whether you're drawn to conservation in Chile, the history and heritage of the Channel Islands, or the beautiful cities of Ravenna and Bologna in Italy, we have an adventure for you. Visit alumni.cam.ac.uk/travel to see all the trips on offer and read testimonials from past travellers.

CAMCard

The CAMCard is issued free to all alumni and with it you can visit Colleges open to the public without paying an entrance fee. The CAMCard also gives you access to a range of discounts across Cambridge, including tickets at the ADC theatre, the Clayton Hotel near Cambridge Station and Heffers Book Shop. To find out more about everything your CAMCard entitles you to, or to get yours, visit alumni.cam.ac.uk/camcard

Digital resources

Explore a wealth of online resources from Cambridge's Colleges, departments, museums and much more. From virtual tours to online exhibitions and webinars, there's something for everyone. alumni.cam.ac.uk/digital

University podcasts

Listen to podcasts covering a wide range of topics from across the University, brought to you by members of the Cambridge community. alumni.cam.ac.uk/podcasts

Alumni Groups

Check out how to join one of more than 200 volunteer-led Alumni Groups by visiting alumni.cam.ac.uk/groups



Upcoming alumni events

Keep an eye on alumni. cam.ac.uk/events and your alumni newsletters for further details of all the other exciting events, including Cambridge Conversations, events hosted by Cambridge departments and faculties, and upcoming chances to connect with the alumni community around the world.

Alumni bookshelf

Read recently published titles from across the Cambridge community, as well as books with a link to the University. alumni.cam.ac.uk/benefits/book-shelf

Alumni Book Club

Join the debate with your fellow alumni at the bi-monthly virtual Alumni Book Club, now with dedicated College forums and virtual author talks. Members vote during each reading period to choose the next book, and participation is free for alumni. Find out more at alumni.cam.ac.uk/benefits/alumni-book-club

Journals and online resources

Discover the convenience of accessing numerous online academic resources regardless of your location. Benefit from complimentary access to higher education materials from Cambridge University Press, renowned for its top-tier content designed to enrich teaching and learning experiences in today's dynamic educational landscape. Find out what's available at alumni.cam.ac.uk/journals

On-demand content

Missed an event or Festival session? Check out the collection of recorded sessions from past events, including the Alumni Festival and Cambridge Conversations, at youtube.com/@YoursCambridge/playlists





Ethical financial advice investors & sustainable investing

"When I started EQ Investors, I wanted to change the way that people grew their money. I wanted to show that there was another way. Our sustainable approach is the perfect way to grow your wealth and benefit the planet & society."

John Spiers, Clare College 1969-72



Certified



Corporation



Chartered

EQ Investors is an award-winning team of chartered financial planners and investment experts. As a B Corp, we only ever invest in sustainable ways, so that you can be confident that your money is having a positive impact on the world.

Our financial planners will sit down with you to explore your needs and priorities – whatever they may be – and then to help you turn that initial conversation into a fully fledged financial plan.

Contact us today for a free initial consultation, visit:

eqinvestors.co.uk

EQ Investors is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. EQ/0624/915

CAPITAL AT RISK.



OXFORD AND
CAMBRIDGE
— CLUB —



Welcome to your Club

For nearly 200 years alumni have chosen to take up membership of a spacious and elegant private club in the heart of London. The Oxford and Cambridge Club in Pall Mall is the perfect place to meet for a drink, entertain friends and colleagues in magnificent surroundings, play squash, take a break, host a party or just find a quiet corner to prepare for a meeting. A thriving social scene, sports facilities, a lively calendar of events including talks, tastings, dinners and balls, an exceptionally well-stocked library, extensive wine cellars and more than 40 bedrooms mean our members use their club for recreation, relaxation and business - and now you can too.

For details on membership or a tour of the Club house on Pall Mall,
please visit www.oxfordandcambridgeclub.co.uk or call 020 7321 5110

  Oxford and Cambridge Club  @oandclub