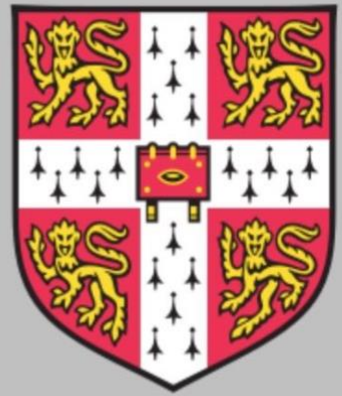


Norfolk Cambridge Society

Summer 2022 Newsletter



From the Chair

I am fond of telling a story from the late 1960s when I invited the comedian Peter Cook to play golf at Wentworth where I was then a member. I didn't know him well but he was a friend of my flatmate and I had spent an afternoon with them both at Cook's house in Hampstead. We played in June in the middle of a dry spell. Cook teed off first and drove into the rough on the right of the first fairway. The ball was perfectly playable but he asked me if he could move it to improve his lie. When I told him he couldn't, he calmly reached into his pocket, took out a box of matches and set fire to the grass. With some difficulty, my flatmate and I managed to stamp out the flames, all to the sound of furious shouts from other members watching from the first tee. Cook looked at his blackened ball, said "That's better" and hit a good shot up towards the green. He then proceeded to improve his lie at will around the rest of the course. He kept us amused enough throughout and afterwards invited me to his box at 'Spurs. But it was a sobering lesson. He was in his thirties at the height of his celebrity. I was just 21 and less than a year out of university. If someone with power is prepared to break all the rules, what does one do?

Right now, we see much more important rule books being torn up across the world. Appeasement certainly does not seem to be the best response but the risks are huge. So, I am greatly looking forward to hearing what Dr Bridget Kendall has to say on 30th September, when she will deliver a lecture on '*Understanding Russia Today*'. So far, we have 275 bookings. If you have yet to book or invite friends, there are still seats left. An updated flyer follows in this newsletter. Please feel free to put it up on any suitable notice boards in your locality or to forward it to anyone you think would be interested. Charlotte and I will probably be bringing along two members of a most interesting Ukrainian family we now have living with us, one of whom has produced a fascinating episode of Radio 4's 'The Reunion', to be broadcast this Sunday 11th September, at 11.15. The subject will be the Maidan Uprising in Kiev, which began on 21 November 2013. It will be interesting to hear what questions, if any, they ask of Dr Kendall!

Our AGM is fast approaching. It will be held on **14th September at the Norfolk Club at 5pm** and I hope many of you will be able to come. Please ensure you let Rob Edwards, our new Secretary know if you plan to be there. (rob.edwards@cantab.net). Drinks and canapés for all attending!

Our other activities continue and our membership is growing, up nearly 10% in the last three months. Our joint Mississippi Boat trip on the Broads with the Oxford University Society of Norfolk was a great success. We have exciting speakers lined up for future lectures, including Sir Paul Nurse, a Nobel Prize winner, as well as Professor Ravindra Gupta, listed in 2020 by Time Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. Our next Viewpoints meeting will consider '*Should private schools be banned?*' Jane Polden & Hugh Berridge have kindly offered to host this at their home in Old Catton between **3.30pm and 5pm on Sunday 16th October**. There are of course, powerful arguments on both sides. Please contact me if you would like to attend, as places are limited.

We have a vigorous committee now planning more joint events with the OUS and possibly with the Suffolk Cambridge Society. Peter Smith, our recently retired Secretary, has designed a new website for us which I hope you will find a considerable improvement on the previous one. I certainly think so. Please contact me if you have ideas for events that you would like to organise and if you are interested in becoming a committee member yourself.

Geoffrey
geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com

From the Editor

Welcome to the not really Summer edition of our newsletter! I hope you will find it helpful to finally put faces to some of the names on the committee which has recently seen a realignment of responsibilities. New contact details for committee members are the last item below. You will also notice reference to our **comprehensive, new website**. All upcoming dates and activities can now be found there rather than, as previously, at the end of the newsletter. Many thanks to Bryan Guttridge who has taken over responsibility for keeping you all up to date.

If any readers would like to submit items for publication please contact me with a Word document. Equally any suggestions for activities will be welcomed by Mu Gurbutt.

Kathy Moyse ajskcm@btinternet.com

2021/22 Norfolk Cambridge Society Student Award

This year, as in the previous two academic years, the Norfolk Cambridge Society has run a Student Award Scheme. The aim is to encourage students who attend Norfolk schools to consider applying to the University of Cambridge.

Final year students who have applied for and been offered either a firm or a conditional place at a Cambridge College are invited via their schools to submit a circa 1000-word essay on a topic chosen by the Awards Committee members. Entrants' essays are anonymised and then 'scored' by Committee members before a short-list for a final interview is drawn up. Up to three £500 Cash prizes are normally available, while runner-up prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Committee to those who very narrowly missed being a winner.

There can be few readers unaware of the Covid-related difficulties and disruptions experienced by all schools and their pupils during the 21/22 academic year. We are therefore particularly grateful to both to the staff in local schools who promoted our award scheme, and to those students who found time to write and submit essays, thus making it possible for us to run the scheme for a third year.

The overall quality of submissions in all three years has been high, and this year, perhaps particularly so. We should like to congratulate our three 21/22 prize winners: Alfie Penfold, Karthic Brabhu, Benjamin Tremelling and our runner-up, Amelie Clark.

The feedback from students and their schools has been very positive. One 2020 prize winner said of her participation in the Scheme:

'The Student Awards provided a thought-provoking opportunity to consider and put into words what I would like to achieve from my university degree, whilst also giving the chance to discuss the issues I highlighted with members of the Society. I would certainly recommend entering this competition for anyone hoping to go to Cambridge.'

Another entrant wrote to us say how valuable he had found it to take part in the competition even though he had not been a prize winner.

The Committee has been reviewing the outcomes of our three 'pilot' years and looking at ways to involve more Norfolk 6th-formers. This year (22/23) we are planning to expand our entry criteria to include all those who apply to a Cambridge College, whether or not they are offered a conditional place.

The Awards Scheme prizes are funded by the Society's lecture series. With this in mind, we encourage all members and friends of the Norfolk Cambridge Society to support the awards scheme by attending the NCS lectures and promoting both the lectures and the awards to local schools and their students. For further information about the NCS lectures or the awards scheme, please contact any member of the NCS committee whose email addresses can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Annie Grant. Chair of Awards sub-committee

NCS Book Group

We finally met in person in June after 18 months online to discuss *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haigh. There was general appreciation of the wry humour and questions about death and the afterlife that the text raised though there was disagreement about how convinced we were by the main protagonist. We decided to go 'off piste' with our next choice and are currently reading *Mistress Masham's Repose* by TH White. A children's book written in the 1950s by the author of *The Once and Future King*.

This meeting will be on Zoom on Thursday September 22nd starting at 6.15pm and finishing by 7.45pm. If you would like to join us for this or any future discussion please email me. We meet approximately 6 weekly.

Kathy Moyse

aiskcm@btinternet.com

Epicureans



As we begin to re-establish routines and commitments we have struggled to attract a weekend 'clientele' for our lunchtime dining society. Plans are afoot to revamp the offer, probably focusing on midweek get togethers including both daytime and evening. Once we've got ourselves organised you will be contacted with details. We are hoping to meet before Christmas.

Kathy Moyse and Mu Gurbutt

Viewpoints



A flexible group of NCS members and interested others meets every couple of months, historically at Norwich School but increasingly at each other's houses. We discuss a wide range of things that matter. Our last meeting on July 31st. Considered 'What still needs to change for women?' Our next meeting will take place on Sunday 16th October as detailed in Geoffrey's comments above.

We can accommodate a maximum of twelve at each of these meetings. If you wish to come along please contact geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com

Incrementum Lunch Club



This is a fun investment lunch club, comprising up to twelve Norfolk Club and NCS members. No actual money is required. Currently our main notional portfolio comprises 76 equities and funds, all picked by members. At the time of writing these are, perhaps not surprisingly down overall. We are always on the lookout for new members and meet every 6 to 8 weeks at the Norfolk Club in Norwich.

Please contact geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com if you wish to try us out.

Simon Brickles (Vice Chair)

Emmanuel College 1983-6.

Simon is a former barrister and has been a director of various stock exchanges and other businesses.

Simon is a member of the Norfolk Club and is a trustee of the Norfolk Community Foundation.



Bryan Guttridge (Website Manager)

Bryan studied at Cambridge for a Masters in Interdisciplinary Design for the Built Environment subsequently teaching aspiring architects at the university how to run a business as part of their degree. He is a member of Peterhouse and Wolfson Colleges.

Now semi-retired from his own practice he works as a mentor with The British Bank and as a guide at Norwich Cathedral.



Mu Gurbutt (Events and Epicureans)

After gaining a degree in Biology at Lancaster University Mu completed a PGCE at Hughes Hall.

For the last 18 years of her teaching career, she worked at Wymondham College.

Before then she taught intermittently, worked as a conference secretary in Belgium and was awarded a Gatsby research fellowship at St John's College.



Kathy Moyse (Book Group, Newsletter, Epicureans)

Homerton College 1976-1980

After teaching English for 22 years in Secondary schools and in a Sixth Form College, Kathy studied for a French Degree and an MA in Translation. She subsequently worked as a translator and as an Education Consultant.

In 2019 she and her husband retired to Norfolk where she is a Governor at her local High school and has recently qualified to become a guide at Norwich Cathedral.



A plea from the Chair!

Since first joining the Society in 2018, I have tried to develop the range of activities available to members. This began with the Society lectures and rapidly expanded to include Viewpoints, the Student Awards (now led by Annie Grant), the Incrementum Investment lunch club, and Epicureans. Kathy Moyse launched the highly successful Book Group a couple of years ago and Mu Gurbutt has arranged a very varied programme of events despite the best effort of Covid 19.

Such is the range of activities we are now engaged in that the time pressures on me and other committee members have become rather too great. Specifically, we are looking for volunteers to help Mu with the events programme and for help organising meetings and topics for Viewpoints.

Please contact me at geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com if you are interested in helping or if you are interested in setting up and running any other kind of group.

Contacts

For all information about the Society, events and meetings please take a look at our **new website**, ably maintained by Bryan Guttridge who can be contacted at bguttridge@gmail.com

<https://norfolkcambridgesociety.org.uk/>

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