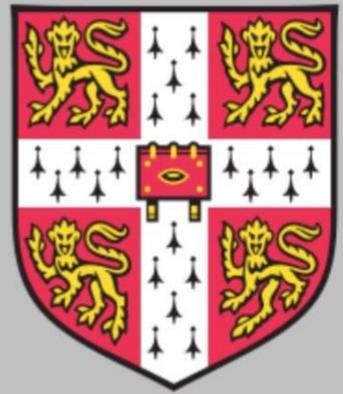


Norfolk Cambridge Society

Autumn 2022 Newsletter



From the Chair

A rather shorter introduction from me than usual. Winter looms, prices are up but attendances at NCS public lectures go from strength to strength. Nearly 300 people came to Dr Bridget Kendall's marvellous lecture on Understanding Russia Today on 30 September and we have already received over 400 bookings for our next lecture on 26 January, to be delivered by Sir Paul Nurse, Nobel Prize winner, CEO of the Francis Crick Institute and arguably Norfolk's greatest living son. Because of the large number of bookings, it has been necessary to move his lecture from Norwich School to Lecture Theatre 1 at the University of East Anglia. An email explaining this decision has been sent to everyone who has already bought tickets. More details, later in this newsletter, of other mouth-watering lectures to come next year.

Our Book Group continues to do very well under the fine leadership of Kathy Moyse and Incrementum, our stock-picking group, is doing well in attendances if not in performance! Attendances at some of our other events, however, have been declining this year, most notably Viewpoints and Epicureans. Kathy and Mu Gurbutt have kindly agreed to take over running Epicureans in the hopes of getting the numbers up. If someone is interested in running Viewpoints, which is a wonderful opportunity to get NCS members and others together every two or three months to discuss matters philosophical, political or simply entertaining, they are very welcome to do so. Just let me know.

It is perhaps time again to ask you, our members, what changes, you might like to see in how the NCS is run. Please do email me with any suggestions as to what sort of events would attract you over the coming months. These could be for NCS members only, or for joint events with other societies such as the OUS (Oxford University Society of Norfolk). And if you would like to set up and organise any events yourself, your input would be especially welcomed.

Finally, if you are aware of any Cambridge graduates living in Norfolk who are unaware of us, please do encourage them to contact me so they can be added to our database.

As this newsletter will be our last before Christmas, Seasons Greetings to you all.

Geoffrey
geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com

From the Editor

Life at present really does feel like Jodi Taylor's description of history as "just one damned thing after another"! Despite this I hope you will find something of quiet interest in this newsletter including further and better details of committee members whose contact details are the last item below. All upcoming dates and activities can now be found on our new website <https://norfolkcambridgesociety.org.uk/>

A proposed date for the reformulated Epicureans follows below as do details of other proposed activities. One hesitates to tempt fate but have a peaceful Christmas and maybe 2023 will be slightly less eventful. In a good way.

Kathy Moyse ajskcm@btinternet.com

NCS Public Lectures

In September, Dr Bridget Kendall gave a fascinating talk to nearly 300 people, the largest attendance at any of our lectures so far. She outlined the difficulties in dealing with Vladimir Putin, gave insights into how he sees the world, described how he and the West are viewed by the Russian people and reflected on the dilemmas facing Ukrainian and western leaders. Her conclusions left little room for optimism. There was a wide range of questions from the floor, including one from a Ukrainian refugee. Bridget handled them all with skill and great aplomb. It was a privilege to be there.

We already have three exceptionally interesting and relevant speakers lined up for 2023:

On **26th January**, Nobel Prize winner **Sir Paul Nurse**, CEO of the Francis Crick Institute, will speak on one of the most fundamental scientific and philosophical questions facing mankind - *What is Life?* The Nobel Prize winning physicist Erwin Schrödinger, asked this question eighty years ago in his book of the same title and it became one of the inspirations for Sir Paul's chosen career as a geneticist. Sir Paul eventually published his own book on the subject in 2021. He is the most celebrated geneticist in the world and is arguably Norfolk's most distinguished living son. In all Sir Paul has received over 70 honorary degrees and fellowships from around the world.

On **27th April**, **Professor Ravindra (Ravi) Gupta** will speak on *Defeating Pandemic Viruses - Lessons for the Future*. Ravi has been Professor of Clinical Microbiology at the Cambridge Institute for Therapeutic Immunology and Infectious Diseases since 2019. Having completed his medical undergraduate studies at Cambridge and Oxford Universities, he obtained a Masters in Public Health at Harvard as a Fulbright scholar. He has worked extensively on HIV drug resistance, both at molecular and population levels and his work demonstrating escalating global resistance to treatments for HIV led to changes in WHO treatment guidelines. He deployed his expertise in RNA virus genetics and biology during the COVID-19 pandemic and appeared frequently on television. Most recently Professor Gupta's work has defined the immune escape and transmissibility advantage of the Delta variant as the drive behind global expansion of this variant. In 2020 he was named as one of the 100 most influential people worldwide by TIME Magazine.

On **6th June**, **Lieutenant General Douglas McKenzie Chalmers**, CB, DSO, OBE, will speak on *The Military Instrument - Theory and Practice*. General Chalmers is a former British Army officer who served as Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Military Strategy & Operations) from 2018 to 2021. He is currently Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He joined the British Army in 1984 as a private and was commissioned into the Royal Irish Rangers in October 1986. In July 2007, he became commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and, in that role, was deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He went on to become commander of the 12th Mechanized Brigade in October 2011 and was deployed as commander of Task Force Helmand in April 2012. After that he became the Chief of the Defence Staff's Liaison Officer to the United States Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in October 2013 and Assistant Chief of Staff (Operations) at Permanent Joint Headquarters in August 2014. General Chalmers officially retired from the British Army on 19th February 2022.

Purchasing Your Tickets. New!

With increased interest in our lectures we have moved to automated ticketing. Ticket Tailor is an online system that allows card payment. Tickets are issued to your email with a QR code to be scanned on entry either from a paper ticket or on your phone.

You can access Ticket Tailor via both the Cambridge Alumni website and the Cambridge Norfolk Society's own website <https://norfolkcambridgesociety.org.uk/> . You can also create an online account directly with Ticket Tailor.

2022/23 Norfolk Cambridge Society Student Award

With this year's undergraduate applications to Cambridge safely lodged with the university our next round of the award is also getting underway. We confirmed at our last NCS Committee meeting that we will be inviting submissions from any student who has applied this year whether or not they are eventually offered a place. We are actively exploring other ways of attracting more entrants and aim to interview finalists sometime after the end of February 2023. If anyone with experience of teaching at secondary level or above, or with experience of working with young people, would be interested in joining the sub-committee you would be very welcome to join us as we have recently lost a member. The responsibilities are not onerous in terms of time commitment: a couple of Zoom meetings a year, marking the submissions and being part of the interview panel, which will once again be via Zoom. Interviews usually take a couple of hours in total. This part of the process is sometime during February/ March depending on our other commitments. Please contact me by email if you are interested. With thanks in anticipation.

Annie Grant annie.grant@uea.ac.uk

NCS Book Group

We have held two meetings since the last newsletter. Our last book, Ian McEwan's latest offering *The Lesson* provoked a hugely enjoyable discussion. Being of an age more or less with the main protagonist certainly lent an extra dimension to this semi-autographical account of childhood and adolescence set against a post-war/cold war background.

Since we are getting back to something more like 'normal life' we all seem to be very busy in the runup to Christmas so our next meeting will be in person, on January 5th in Norwich. James Firebrace has very kindly agreed to host so if you would like to join us please email me for details of that meeting. The book is '*Index, a History of the*' by Dennis Duncan. It is available in paperback, on Kindle and on Audio.

Kathy Moyse
ajskcm@btinternet.com

Epicureans



We are planning our first revamped outing for **Thursday 23rd February 2023**. We hope to meet **for lunch** at The Last Restaurant and Wine Bar, 70-76 St Georges St, Norwich NR3 1AB at 12.30pm. We will be eating from the prix fixe menu: 2 courses at £26 per person, 3 courses at £35 per person. Drinks payable on your own account. The current menu is on the restaurant website and they anticipate it being similar in February.

There is no limit or minimum requirement on numbers but as we have to pay a non-returnable deposit we will need to know definite takers before we book which I propose to do at the end of January. I will pay the deposits on your behalf once you have paid me £10/head. This is the only way I can see of doing it without someone (i.e. me or Mu!) being out of pocket. Please email me by **Friday 20th January** if you would like to come and I will send details of where to pay your deposit. I will then confirm that we're going ahead once I have secured the booking.

Kathy Moyse ajskcm@btinternet.com and Mu Gurbett

Incrementum Lunchtime Investment Group



This is a fun gathering, comprising up to twelve Norfolk Club and NCS members. No actual money is required. Currently our main notional portfolio comprises 81 equities and funds, all picked by members. At the time of writing these are, perhaps not surprisingly, down overall but only by 10% since the fund was established in August 2021. That compares favourably with many professionally managed funds. We are always on the lookout for new members and meet every two or three months at the Norfolk Club in Norwich. Please contact geoffreyjinsmart@gmail.com if you wish to try us out.

Our last meeting on Tuesday 6th September was extremely interesting. Our guest, David Brief, provided some fascinating insights as to how large pension fund managers think and, together with Peter Milne, bounced off rapid calculations as to whether some of the stocks being suggested were good value. It was a privilege to see true professionals at work!

We have decided to simplify things in future so:

- No more league tables. Just the Main Incrementum Portfolio updated after every meeting with our picks
- No more voting. Everyone's picks get automatically added to the portfolio. However, if they wish to have them removed at any time, they can do so without a vote
- Rotating chair. Over time, everyone gets a turn at chairing the meeting
- A focus on just discussing the picks advanced, with reasoning, and on the state of markets
- Everyone has an opportunity to spend 10 minutes at the start of any one of our meetings presenting on something relevant to the markets. How they pick stocks, what they have read somewhere, something...

We will meet at 11.30 am followed by lunch on the following dates

Tuesday 13th December (also Christmas lunch)

Tuesday 17th January

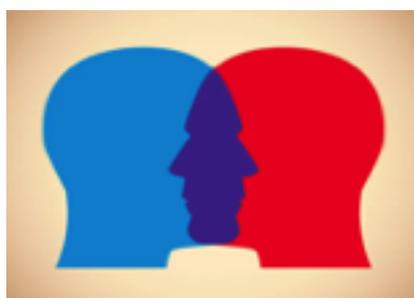
Tuesday 14th March

Tuesday 16th May

Matthew Darroch-Thompson has kindly agreed to chair the December meeting and organise the agenda.

Geoffrey

Viewpoints is currently suspended. See the Chair's comments above.



George Shippam (NCS Awards)

George was born in Norwich, grew up in West Sussex and went to school in Berkshire, before studying Geography at Magdalene (1987). An accidental career in The City followed, before he returned to Norfolk with his family in 2013, and established his own financial planning practice.

George has a love of alternative Eighties pop music, is an unhealthy target-driven cyclist, a very amateur wine collector and a perennially exasperated Canaries fan.



Dr Annie Grant (Chair, NCS Awards Committee)

Annie read Archaeology and Anthropology at Newnham and is currently a Newnham Associate. She is a trustee of the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society. She has worked as a teacher and researcher in the higher education sector throughout her career. More latterly she was responsible for student services, first at the University of Leicester, and then, until she retired, as Dean of Students at the UEA.



Future Events

We will be offering two specialist guided tours of Norwich Cathedral, hopefully with lunch at the Refectory, towards the end of May/beginning of June next year. Topics will be 'Graffiti' and 'A Monastic Life'. They will run concurrently, each will last about an hour and the cost will be £5 whichever you opt for. The guides are exceptionally knowledgeable and enthusiastic and even if you know the cathedral well you will be amazed by what you don't know! Final details will follow in the next newsletter.

Mu Gurbett

Contacts

For 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 bgguttridge@gmail.com

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

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