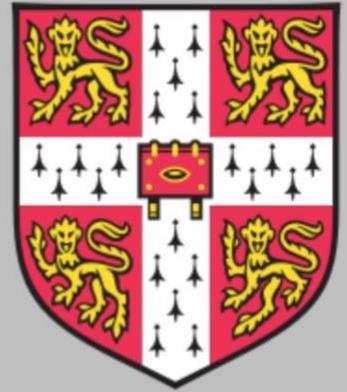


Norfolk Cambridge Society

Winter 2022 Newsletter



From the Chair

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I write this just after our eleventh public lecture, delivered on 25th January by Professor Diane Coyle on the subject of 'Levelling Up'. An estimated 160 people watched and the feedback received has been excellent. Sadly, it had to be held by Zoom but, as a result, several people heard it who otherwise would not have. Given the ongoing risks from Covid throughout January, it was a wise decision by Norwich School to ask us to move our lecture online.

Our Society continues to run a wide variety of activities for members to enjoy with their families and friends and, as herd immunity continues to build, we will hopefully all feel able to take part in them. A full list of planned events can be found in the NCS Events Calendar at the end of this newsletter. You will find more details on all these activities below.

I should like to draw your attention to two events in particular.

- On Thursday 21 April Professor Michael Kenny, Director of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy at the University of Cambridge, will be delivering our twelfth public lecture. The subject will be "The British Constitution – its Strengths, Weaknesses and Risks". The UK is one of only three countries in the world without a written constitution and it will be interesting to hear Professor Kenny's views on this and on other matters of potentially great significance to British citizens.
- On a much lighter note, from 6.30pm to 9.30pm on Wednesday 13 July, we will be holding a joint summer event with the Oxford University Society of Norfolk on the Southern Comfort. This is a double-deck luxury river cruiser running regular trips from the beautiful village of Horning, along the River Bure and out to Ranworth Broad and back, passing lovely old thatched houses, windmills and Norfolk reed beds. The event will include a welcome drink, a buffet supper and a jazz band and the price will be just £25 per head. This will be a marvellous opportunity to meet new people. Best to book early as there is only room for eighty people.

With best wishes

Geoffrey geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com

From the Editor

A very belated Happy New Year to all our readers! As you will see below we continue to meet both online and in person despite the exigencies of Covid. Our proposed boat trip in July is a new enterprise and we are really hoping to have a celebration of a more 'normal' summer.

The NCS committee (which has only met once in person because of the pandemic) continues to work for its members and we would love to see more of you joining the society. Membership is free and you are very welcome to sign up for any of the events, many of which are also free.

Kathy Moyse ajskcm@btinternet.com

The Twelfth Society Lecture



Professor Michael Kenny

The Twelfth NCS Public Lecture will take place from **6.30pm on Thursday 21st April in the Blake Studio, Norwich School** and will be delivered by Professor Michael Kenny of the University of Cambridge. His topic will be 'The British Constitution – its Strengths, Weaknesses and Risks'. The Constitution of the United Kingdom comprises both written and unwritten arrangements. Hitherto no attempt has been made to codify such arrangements into a single document as a result of which the UK is one of only three countries in the world (the others being New Zealand and Israel) without a formal, codified constitution.

Does this matter? Is it a strength or a weakness? Have the much-lauded checks and balances in the British system been shown to be illusory? Should we consider codifying some of Britain's long-established conventions now that our politicians no longer seem to respect the norms that governed parliamentary behaviour in previous eras? What kind of balance do we need to strike in our territorial constitution between the UK government and its devolved counterparts? And, finally, what kinds of process should we be developing to make sensible constitutional change happen?

Professor Kenny is Director of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy. Before he arrived in Cambridge, Michael held positions at Queen's University, Belfast, the University of Sheffield, where he was appointed Head of the Department of Politics and Queen Mary University of London, where he was the inaugural Director of the Mile End Institute.

He also served on the Leverhulme Trust's Advisory Committee (2010-2018), was co-director of the British Academy's 'Governing England' programme (2015-2018), and is currently a visiting Fellow at the UCL Constitution Unit, a member of an external expert panel convened by the Scottish Parliament to advise on the constitutional implications of Brexit, and a member of the advisory board of the Constitution Society. This will be an exceptional opportunity to hear the views of a leading expert on matters of profound importance to all British citizens.

The lecture is open to Norfolk Cambridge Society members and adult members of the public. Tickets are priced at £15 per person. **However, for people in full-time adult education, for the over 60s and for all tickets bought and paid for before Saturday 12 March, the price will be reduced to £10 per person.** There is also a strictly limited number of tickets priced at £5, available to sixth form students accompanied by parents or teachers, on a first-come, first-served basis. All prices include a glass of wine (not for sixth form students) or a soft drink.

If you would like to reserve seats please contact geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com

NCS Epicureans



Epicureans is a new lunch group for alumni, partners and friends, meeting once every two months or so at gastropubs around Norfolk. So far, we have met at the Dial House, Reepham and Stoke Mill, Stoke Holy Cross. Our next lunch is on Saturday 26th February (note change of date from Sunday 27th February) at The Ingham Swan, Sea Palling Rd, Ingham, Norwich NR12 9AB. Just £23 for two courses, £28 for three courses. Choice of three starters, three mains and three desserts. Open to a maximum of 25 alumni, family and friends. Please book early!

Contact Geoffrey Smart geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com

NCS Incrementum Lunchtime Investment Group



Do you enjoy dabbling in stocks and shares? Or are you a pro who enjoys meeting those who do? Incrementum is a fun lunch group, open to both Norfolk Cambridge Society members and Norfolk Club members. We meet every six weeks or so at the Norfolk Club and run a notional portfolio of around 50 holdings. Each member puts up suggestions for buys and sells and we track individual performance with a Star Broker and a Dark Horse league table. No actual money is put up. The investments are purely on paper, although of course the group is potentially a rich source of ideas for our private investments. Good humour is the only other requirement for membership. We have a limit of twelve at any one meeting and we currently have eleven members! So, room for one more.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 15th February, beginning at midday.

Please email geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com if you would like to join.

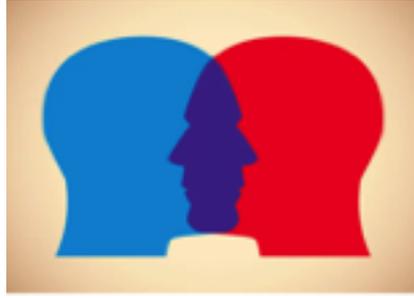
Book Group

Our January meeting saw a very lively discussion of the merits and shortcomings of reimagined history when we considered *The plot Against America* by Philip Roth. We also mulled over the wisdom of putting a real person into imagined events, the current state of US politics and why so many of us find American authors 'difficult'.

The next meeting will be on Monday 21st February on Zoom beginning at 6pm and finishing by 7.30pm. The book to read for this session is *A Fine Madness* by Alan Judd. Another re-imagined history which looks at the life and supposed career in espionage of Christopher Marlowe. If you would like to join us please email me.

Kathy Moyse ajskcm@btinternet.com

NCS Viewpoints



Viewpoints is our regular discussion group on philosophy, politics and current affairs. We meet every six weeks or so, either in the Music Room at Norwich School or at 36 Elm Hill, Norwich. Since our last newsletter we have discussed *“Our moral duty to others - where does it stop?”*, *“What is a nation and under what circumstances should it be permitted to secede?”* and *“What is racism and what should be done about it?”*. The discussions have been lively, good-humoured and stimulating.

Upcoming discussions are:

- Thursday 24th February - 6pm to 7.30pm 36 Elm Hill - Topic *“Euthanasia - should it be legalised?”*
- Thursday 14th April - 6pm to 7.30pm 36 Elm Hill - Topic *“What defines a truly civilised society?”*

We can accommodate up to twelve people. Cambridge alumni take priority, provided they book early. Anyone else with interesting ideas is welcome, provided they are prepared to do the (short) recommended background reading. So, by all means bring friends and family but please let me know how many you wish to bring so I can ensure there is space!

Contact geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com

2021/22 Norfolk Cambridge Society Student Award Essay Competition

We are very pleased to report that we have recently launched our third annual Student Award Essay Competition.

For those who are not familiar with the competition, the Society is offering up to three £500 cash awards to Year 13/14 students who both attend a Norfolk school or college in the 2021/22 academic year and have been offered a conditional or unconditional offer of an undergraduate place at Cambridge University.

Norfolk Sixth Forms have been contacted and a member of staff sought to act as the link with the NCS. Essays on this year's chosen topic must be validated by the school and submitted by 18th February. We expect to announce the prize-winners in late March.

If anyone knows of an eligible candidate who has not been informed about the award by their school, please do not hesitate to contact Rob Edwards at rob.edwards@cantab.net with the name of the relevant school so that they can be contacted and alerted to this opportunity.

Annie Grant
Chair NCS Award sub-committee

NCS Future Events - January to June 2022
(Please note change of date in italics)

Date	Day	Time	Event	Topic	Location
07/02/22	Monday	11.30am to 2pm	NCS Committee Meeting	NCS business matters	Norfolk Club
15/02/22	Tuesday	12.00pm to 2.00pm	Incrementum	Stocks and funds to buy and sell in order to maximise our notional portfolio's medium-term returns	Norfolk Club
21/02/22	Monday	6pm to 7.30pm	Book Group	Discussion of <i>A Fine Madness</i> By Alan Judd	Zoom
24/02/22	Thursday	6.00 to 7.30pm	Viewpoints	Euthanasia: Should it be legalised?	36 Elm Hill, Norwich NR3 1HG
26/02/22	Saturday	1.00pm	Epicureans	Good food and good conversation	The Ingham Swan, Sea Palling Rd, Ingham, Norwich NR12 9AB
24/03/22	Thursday	12.00pm to 2.00pm	Incrementum	Stocks and funds to buy and sell in order to maximise our notional portfolio's medium-term returns	Norfolk Club
14/04/22	Thursday	6.00 to 7.30pm	Viewpoints	What defines a truly civilised society?	36 Elm Hill, Norwich NR3 1HG
21/04/22	Thursday	6.30 to 8.30pm	Twelfth NCS Lecture	The British Constitution – its Strengths, Weaknesses and Risks	Blake Studio, Norwich School
05/05/22	Thursday	12.00pm to 2.00pm	Incrementum	Stocks and funds to buy and sell in order to maximise our notional portfolio's medium-term returns	Norfolk Club
08/05/22	Sunday	1.00pm	Epicureans	Good food and good conversation	Gastropub in Norwich area – to be selected
26/05/22	Thursday	6.00 to 7.30pm	Viewpoints	TBD	TBD
14/06/22	Tuesday	6.30 to 8.30pm	Thirteenth NCS Lecture	TBD	Blake Studio, Norwich School
16/06/22	Thursday	12.00pm to 2.00pm	Incrementum	Stocks and funds to buy and sell in order to maximise our notional portfolio's medium-term returns	Norfolk Club

