August 2017
Friday 25 Lunch with Sir Andrew Davis CBE

August 25th – Lunch with Sir Andrew Davis CBE
Sir Andrew is currently music director and principal conductor of Lyric Opera of Chicago, chief conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and conductor laureate of both the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. He has served as music director and principal conductor of Lyric Opera of Chicago since 2000. He began his tenure as chief conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in January 2013.
Sir Andrew attended Watford Boys' Grammar School, where he studied classics in his sixth form years. His adolescent musical work included playing the organ at the Palace Theatre, Watford. He studied at the Royal Academy of Music and King's College, Cambridge where he was an organ scholar, graduating in 1967. He later studied conducting in Rome with Franco Ferrara.

Engagements this season include the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and the Bergen and Royal Liverpool Philharmonics, as well as the Edinburgh International Festival.

Sir Andrew has led performances at many of the world’s most important opera houses, among them the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, Covent Garden, the Bayreuth Festival, and the major companies of Munich, Paris, San Francisco, and Santa Fe. In addition to those ensembles previously mentioned, he has appeared with virtually every other internationally prominent orchestra, including the Berlin Philharmonic, the Royal Concertgebouw, the Rotterdam Philharmonic, and all the major British orchestras.

Please note that this event is on a Friday and at a venue where earlier than normal booking is required. This lunch will take place at the Rendezvous Hotel at 328 Flinders St. at 12 noon for 12.30pm. The Rendezvous Hotel is very convenient to Flinders St railway station. Cost is $50 with a cash bar for drinks at your expense. An illuminated sign in the main foyer will direct you to the event. All guests are most welcome; the more the better.

Would you please advise Peter Baines at lunches@cambridgesociety.org.au or on 9820 2334 by latest Wednesday noon, 16th August, if you will be coming (and dietary requirements). Those emailing their intention to attend should ring Peter to confirm if they receive no email confirmation from him within 24 hours of booking.

Future events
15 Sept. Annual Dinner
18 Oct. Lunch with Jim McCue
15 Nov. Lunch with Michelle Cooper
13 Dec. AGM and Varsity Match

Annual Dinner – 15th September
We are pleased to announce that the Rev Dr Jeremy Morris, Master of Trinity Hall, will be our guest of honour at this year’s annual dinner, to be held in the usual venue. A reception for Trinity Hall alumni with the Master will precede the dinner. We are indebted to Mr Patrick Moore and the Hon. Justice Tony Pagone for offering to host these two events. Booking details have been circulated, but if you don’t have them please contact the treasurer at treasurer@cambridgesociety.org.au
Cambridge Australia Scholarships
CAS are pleased to announce that scholarships have been awarded for the 2017/18 academic year as follows:

Victorian Scholarships
1. David Nicholson – Patrick Moore scholarship
2. Patrick Hartigan – Patrick Moore scholarship
3. Jenna Gibbons – Patrick Moore scholarship
4. Rebecca Cohen – Charles Allen scholarship
5. Harry Aitken – Charles Allen scholarship

NSW Scholarship
1. Matthew Ryan

WA Scholarship
1. Lily Hands

National Scholarships
1. Elliot Cook (WA) – Davis McCaughey scholarship (tenable at Pembroke)

We congratulate all the scholars on their achievement and wish them well in their future endeavours at Cambridge.

July 25th – Global Cambridge in Melbourne
The Cambridge Global Event at the Village Roadshow Theatrette in the State Library of Victoria on Tuesday 25th July 2017 attracted about a hundred alumni and guests. The event was organised by the University of Cambridge event team led by Rachel Mortimer Holdsworth. It included a pre-talk drink reception for all the guests at 6pm. Bruce Mortimer, the Head of CUDAR opened the proceedings and introduced the Cambridge University Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Eilis Ferran, who welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of Cambridge conducting several Global events around the world.

She stated that the University was still the driver of innovation and a key hub for research. The main purpose of each global event was to connect with Cambridge Alumni around the globe and to provide a showcase of some of the research being conducted in the various disciplines studied at Cambridge University. For the Australian events, the discipline was about providing a better understanding of the impact of climate change on the planet and how best to protect future global life.

Two eminent researchers, Dr. Hugh Hunt and Mr. Pepe Clarke were then introduced to talk about climate change and some of the solutions being considered. Dr Hunt explained that the main problem was how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere and limit solar radiation by astute management so as to mitigate the increasing average global temperature to below 2o C above the pre-industrial levels.

The world’s population was currently producing 5 tonnes of CO2/person/year and 0.5 tonnes/person/year of rubbish and these quantities were increasing. Greenhouse gases contributed to the increase in global temperature but CO2 in the atmosphere had the biggest impact because it allowed solar radiation to pass through to the earth but it absorbed the reflected infra-red radiation from the earth which raised global temperature more than other gases. As an example of what was happening, Dr Hunt showed slides illustrating how his flight from London to Australia produced 2.5 tonnes of CO2 emissions. This was equivalent to carrying 125 full suitcases of CO2 on the aircraft. The consequent warming of the globe because of emissions was causing the volume of summer ice in the arctic to fall from 30,000 cubic kms in 1980 to 24,000 cubic Kms in 2016 with a consequent raising of sea levels.

Some long term critical solutions were therefore needed. The solutions being studied fell into two categories: Solar Radiation Management (SRM) and CO2 Gas Reduction. Some of the engineering solutions being studied in Cambridge in conjunction with other organisations included:

Project SPICE (Stratospheric Particle injection for Climate Change) which involves injecting particles like sulphates into the atmosphere from tethered balloons or towers so as to simulate the effect of volcanic eruptions which reduce global temperatures through ash in the atmosphere.

SUGGR (Solar Updraft Greenhouse Gas Removal) involving coating solar glass with a catalyst in order to convert methane and nitrous oxide into other gases which were less damaging to the climate.
• Biomass energy capture & storage
• Arctic refreezing.
• Finding the best areas for planting more trees
• Thinning of the clouds and reducing their reflectivity

These were only some of the solutions to the climate problem but they all involved a tremendous cost and risk as well as more detailed study.

Mr Pepe Clarke in his talk concentrated more on a nature based solution to the problem of climate change. His organisation together with 9 other organisations had created a Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI). The main objectives of CCI were to make landscapes more sustainable by expanding protected areas, to invest in large scale conservation and to tackle non-climate threats.

Australia had the largest maritime area in the world to protect as well as large tracts of land which required constant conservation management. It therefore had a big influence on how sea and land areas were managed effectively in a way that reduced the increase in global temperature and avoid species extinction.

During question time, concerns were expressed about the risk involved in implementing the solutions being studied and the speakers emphasised again the need for careful action.

Prof. Ferran concluded by paying tribute to those Alumni who supported scholarships to Cambridge University and to those who supported their College and University through donations and research grants. It was important that everyone should continue to develop their relationships with the University and thereby ensure that it continued to exert a strong global influence on education, culture and research.

Can’t make it to our annual dinner?
Then why not go the Oxford one instead.
Saturday 12th August; 7 for 7:30 at The Kelvin Club, Melbourne Place, CBD. Dress code “black tie”.
The Guest Speaker will be The Very Revd. Dr. Andreas Loewe, Anglican Dean of Melbourne, academic theologian and music historian.

RSVP by Friday 4th August to Liz Beattie - Tel: 0412 057 892 or eMail elizabeth.beattie@keble.oxon.org

Commercial
For Queens alumni and/or rugby fans
I will be officiating at The Rugby Championship Test match between the Australia and the All Blacks on 19 August, as the Television Match Official. This is being played in Sydney.
If you happen to be going to the match, do let me know and we can try to meet at the stadium.
If you live in Sydney, I will aim to host Queens’ alumni at a reunion – probably on Sunday 20 August. We are staying at the Crowne Plaza at Coogee so it may well be there. Further details to follow. Please do let me know if you’d like to meet then. There about 60 Queens’ members in Sydney.
If you are in the UK ever, do come and visit – always most welcome.
With thanks and kind regards,

Mr Rowan Kitt | Fellow & Development Director rmck2@cam.ac.uk

News from Cambridge

1960-70 Physical Chemistry Reunion
The following is by permission of Dr. David Rand. He is one of the organisers of a reunion held in early July. Some of the topics will bring back memories for alumni of similar vintage, albeit from different faculties.

The 1960s were exciting times with the Kennedy presidency and assassination, the Cuban missile crisis, ratcheting up of the Vietnam war, Harold Wilson and the white heat of the technological revolution, Bob Dylan, the Beatles and Rolling Stones, pirate radio, colour TV and England winning the FIFA World Cup. In common with the world outside, men’s hair grew longer and ladies’ skirts shorter. The tie, ubiquitous in 1960, began to disappear. Heady days!
Nonetheless, through it all, the brave individuals of the Cambridge Department of Physical Chemistry continued their research
unabated to improve understanding and extend knowledge in areas vital to the progressive development of the everyday world. In the process, friendships were formed, careers were launched and, we hope, some wisdom emerged.

In the Department, the decade began with the legendary Professor Ronald George Wreyford Norrish at the helm; later, in 1967, he was to receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in the company Manfred Eigen and George Porter ‘for their studies of extremely fast chemical reactions, effected by disturbing the equilibrium by means of very short pulses of energy’. The latter part of this citation is somewhat at odds with the character of a man who was noted for his boundless stamina. Of the 45 chairs of physical chemistry in UK universities at the time, over half were occupied by former Norrish students.

It is quite understandable, therefore, that Norrish anecdotes are still recalled today and in many parts of the world. For instance, when asked by a new demonstrator about his first task — teaching physical chemistry to medical students — Norrish replied: “It’s casting imaginary pearls before real swine”. On another occasion, when a student complained to Norrish that conditions in the laboratory were ‘austere’, he was prodded in the chest by that square, spatulate finger, accompanied by: “Young man, when I was your age I was sleeping in a pool of piss, shit and blood under a howitzer on the Western Front, and I certainly don’t want to hear from you about austerity.”

But not all of the time was spent on work. Opportunities for a spot of the mens sana in corpore sano were encouraged and took the form a variety of sporting and social activities. The laboratory featured famous — or more likely infamous — cricket and football teams. The cricket team played in the Inter-Department 20-Over Competition that took place in the evenings. It is little recognized that Cambridge University is probably the originator of today’s T20 format of the world game. After all, Cambridge did give birth to the Laws of Association Football.

The needle cricket match was always against our arch rivals, the Physics Department. They were inevitably packed with Australians, whereas we had a couple of handy South Africans. Without doubt, the most memorable game took place beneath thunder-threatening clouds.

To hone our skills, we also took the opportunity to pick up tips from professionals. From the laboratory to the University cricket field at Fenners was a short stroll and entrance was free, even for games against the tourists. Reclining in deckchairs with pints of Lacons, some of us saw the great West Indian fast bowler Wes Hall score a century in 60 minutes against the University side in the early 1960s. Freddie Trueman emulated this feat when Yorkshire came to town.

Association football games were played in all weathers. In one game, Tony Callear captained us to a remarkable 4–1 victory in dense fog. Each time we scored a goal, a word-of-mouth message was passed from the forwards to the mid-fielders, and thence to the back line. These were the days, even in professional games, when the defence was not expected to cross the half-way line.

Among the social events, the annual trip on the first Tuesday in December to Twickenham for the Varsity Match was a particular highlight. We always hired a bus and, despite every good intention, inevitably had to tap the keg in Baldock for sustenance during the remainder the exhausting 69-mile journey south. After Cambridge, a good number of those who worked in the Department assumed roles in academia or research institutes. Indeed, many of them have remained active to the present day in fields such as atmospheric chemistry and electrochemistry. Others took on new challenges in industry or government service, or became more involved in management, administration and policy making. Some moved out of scientific work entirely. For instance, among those contributing to this collection of memoirs there is the publisher of a specialist Canadian newspaper and an Anglican priest. All, however, share an affection for their time in Cambridge and the purpose of this Reunion is to celebrate that time.