



## 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cambridge University

In 2009, the University of Cambridge reached a special milestone – 800 years of people, ideas and achievements that continue to transform and benefit the world. Celebrating the best of Cambridge’s rich history and looking forward to the future, the University is reflecting on the myriad achievements and world-changing ideas born within its walls, from the establishment of the fundamentals of physics to the discovery of the structure of DNA; from the transformative thinking of great Cambridge philosophers, poets and artists; to the groundbreaking work of its many Nobel Prize winners (including the late Cesar Milstein, Fellow from 1980 and the late Max Perutz, Honorary Fellow from 1984).

Cambridge affiliates have won more than 80 Nobel Prizes, more than any other institution in the world. Some of the most famous scientific minds in history have studied, researched or taught here. This is the home of Newton and Darwin, Crick and Watson, Babbage and Hawking, to name but a few.

For the launch of the University’s 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, churches in central Cambridge, and around the world rang in the year by ringing touches of 800 changes especially composed for the occasion. Plus from 17<sup>th</sup>—19<sup>th</sup> January 2009 the Senate House and Old Schools were lit up in a spectacular light show featuring iconic images from the University’s past and present.



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# 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Charles Darwin

This year is also the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1809, and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of 'On the Origin of Species'. The Darwin College Lecture Series was inevitably on the theme of 'Darwin' (see page 4) and initiated a year of celebrations throughout the university. The centrepiece of these will be the Darwin Festival on 5 – 10<sup>th</sup> July (see [www.darwin2009.cam.ac.uk](http://www.darwin2009.cam.ac.uk)). Among the many events to celebrate the great man's life was the unveiling of a new bronze statue in Christ's College depicting Charles as a young student and rightfully reminding us that he wasn't always an old man with a large white beard. He was, of course, a lively student with a deep love of the natural sciences that led to him being selected to travel on the Beagle in 1831. Darwin wrote "The only evil at Cambridge was its being too pleasant".

*More Information on Charles Darwin's home 'Down House' is available at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/darwin](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/darwin)*



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[www.englishheritageprints.com](http://www.englishheritageprints.com)

## Darwin College Society Darwin Anniversary Event



On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February the Darwin society hosted a formal hall with Professor Horace Barlow, great grandson of Charles Darwin as guest speaker. Professor Barlow, accompanied by his sister Hilda, spoke about of the 'Darwin Tribe' from the inside, with delightful anecdotes of the family and of their mother Nora. Of particular note were recollections of Nora's energies in preserving Charles's manuscripts and personal memories of Gwen Raverat. The Formal Hall was marked with a 200<sup>th</sup> birthday cake for Charles.

**Guy Roberts**

*Professor Horace Barlow cutting 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday cake*



# From the Alumni Office

## Nº 4 Newnham Terrace Appeal Update

Last year Darwin College was given the chance to purchase Nº 4 Newnham Terrace, the last house in the terrace that the College did not own. Buying this house is the potential jewel in the crown for Darwin. It means that not only will we gain more student rooms on the main site, but we can also open up the gardens all along the river. The enlarged main gardens will be glorious and the river aspect from every point in the garden will be dramatic.

Unfortunately for us, we were offered this fantastic, but entirely unexpected, opportunity during what has turned out to be the worst economic conditions the world has seen for several decades. In recent months fundraising has seen a downturn across all charities, and we really did not know what to expect when we asked for your help in December of last year. Given the circumstances, we have been thrilled by your generosity.

But we do need to continue pushing towards our goal of raising a significant part of the needed £1.5 million from members, friends and trusts. So, if you have not yet made a gift to the Appeal, and would like to, please use the donation form in the middle of this newsletter. Alternatively, you can donate securely on-line at [www.dar.cam.ac.uk/alumni/fromthemaster.htm](http://www.dar.cam.ac.uk/alumni/fromthemaster.htm).

As you know the University is celebrating its 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, and in giving to this specific College appeal you will also support the University effort as a whole, and improve the Darwin experience for all Darwin members ... maybe for the next 800 years!

## Reunion Dinner 1972-1980

The next reunion dinner will be on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June for members who attended College between the years of 1972 –1980. The evening will begin with a talk and tour of the College followed by Formal Hall. Invitations will be sent out to all UK alumni in April. If you live further afield but would still like to attend, please e-mail Sophia Smith.

## Old Darwinians' Garden Party

Everyone is invited to the Garden Party on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> July. This will be held in the gardens if the weather is fine. An invitation is in this issue. Come and meet friends, enjoy good food and see just how stunning the gardens will look when they are finally extended and landscaped along the complete length of the river reach to the Granta public house.

The Darwin Alumni team consists of:

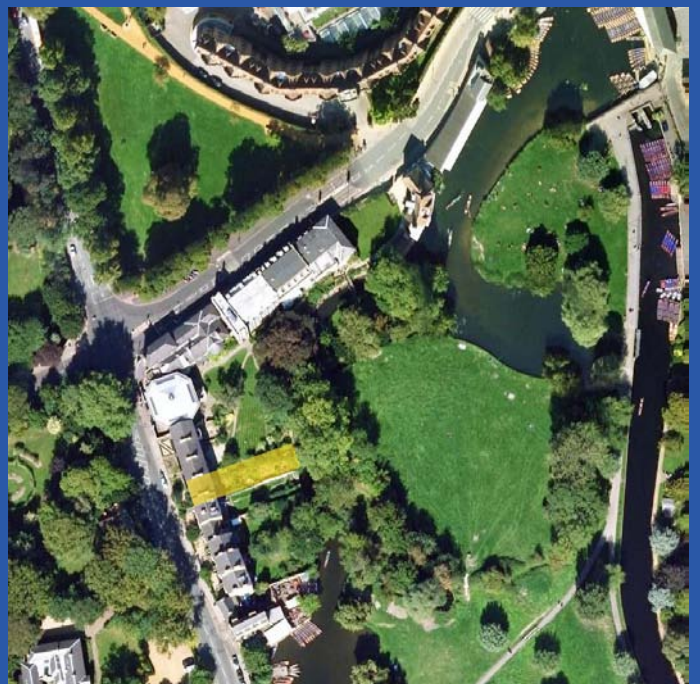
**The Bursar and Development Director, Peter Brindle**  
[bursar@dar.cam.ac.uk](mailto:bursar@dar.cam.ac.uk)

**Alumni Secretary, Sophia Smith**  
[alumni.office@dar.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni.office@dar.cam.ac.uk)

**The Bursar's Secretary, Sandra James**  
[Sj265@cam.ac.uk](mailto:Sj265@cam.ac.uk)



*Number 4 Newnham Terrace, the Jewel in the Crown.*



*The gardens will be opened up along the river, giving a glorious vista. 4 Newnham Terrace is highlighted.*



# Darwin College Lecture Series 2009

In this Anniversary year there was really no choice but to have Charles Darwin himself as the theme of the 2009 lectures. Here was an opportunity to present a balanced view of where current thinking stands on the influence of the man and his ideas. Aware that the best speakers would be in high demand this year, the Vice-Master and I set about organising the series unusually early and were able, with guidance from the College fellowship, to get a nicely balanced programme of first choices. The public response was extraordinary, with audiences of at least six hundred every week and at times more than the overflow hall could cope with. Those who came too late – and anyone else – can be reassured that all lectures can be downloaded as free podcasts through [www.dar.cam.ac.uk/lectures/index.shtml](http://www.dar.cam.ac.uk/lectures/index.shtml).

There was a strong contribution from historians of science. Janet Browne, Darwin's biographer, discussed his intellectual development and his changing influence on his scientific

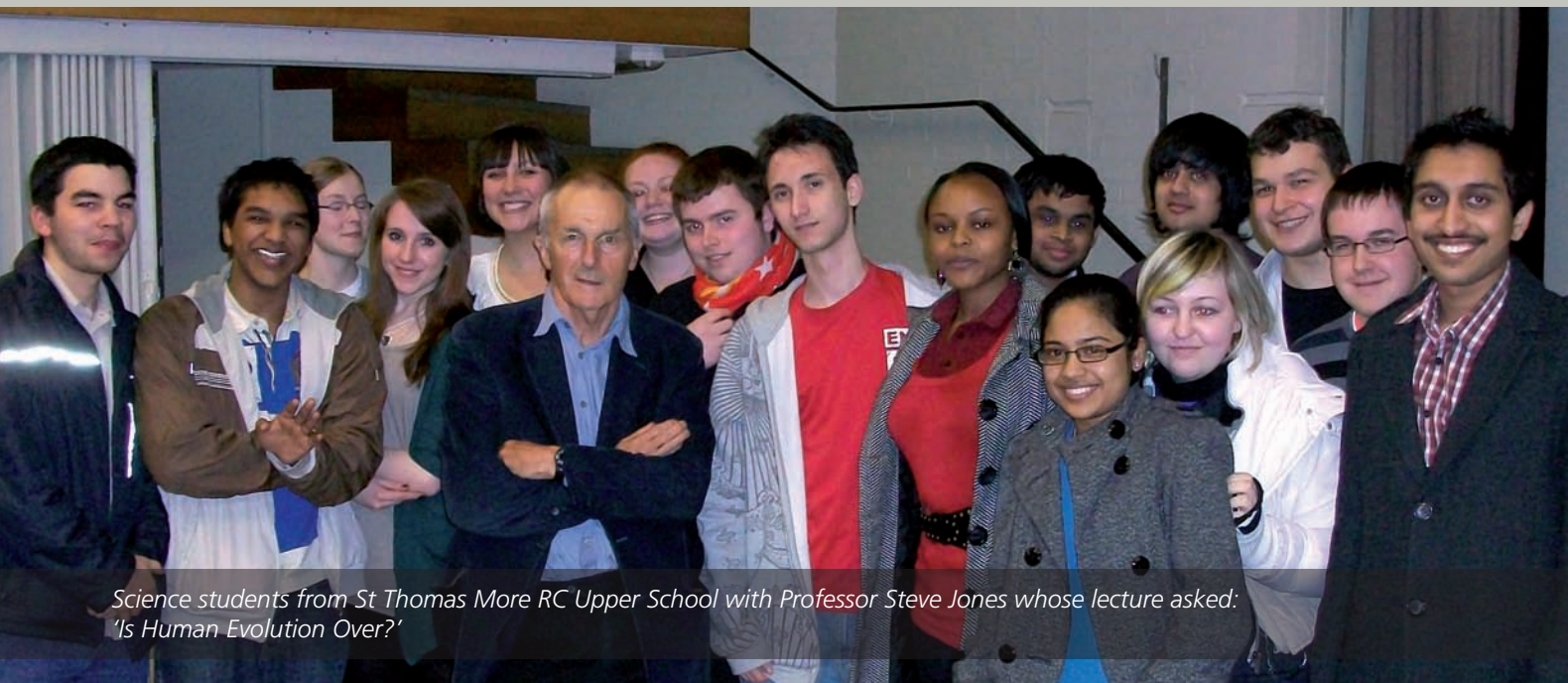
successors. The scholar of his correspondence, Jim Secord, explored the popular impact and mutating reception of his ideas over subsequent decades. The literary historian and novelist Rebecca Stott provided fascinating insights into the continuing influence of Darwin's thought on literature. The implications of his work for our understanding of human society was Paul Seabright's concern. He combined an economic analysis of societal development with a discussion of Darwin's own thoughts on the subject.

The more scientific lectures dove-tailed together particularly well. Sean Carroll used the investigation of defunct components of DNA to shed light on the evolutionary history of highly adapted creatures such as ice-fish, dune mice, and kestrels. Craig Moritz, by contrast, used genetic analysis of relatively localised plants and animals to identify future challenges to species in the face of accelerating environmental change. It was our own species, which

has recently become so remorseless in mucking up that environment and tinkering with its own evolution that was addressed by Steve Jones. He asked whether human evolution was over; his conclusion was that it is. Finally, it was left to a philosopher of science, John Dupre, to discuss where theorising about natural selection is taking us. Drawing in particular on work on microbes, he argued that scientific attention is shifting from competition to co-operation, from mechanisms of sex to those of merger, and to non-genetic means of evolution. Darwinism may have evolved dramatically since his time, but Darwin's influence as a scientist has never been greater.

**Willy Brown**

Editor's note: This year's lecture series features in an NPR podcast link on "Darwin, Britain's Hero, Is Still Controversial In U.S." available at: [www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=100379229](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=100379229)



*Science students from St Thomas More RC Upper School with Professor Steve Jones whose lecture asked: 'Is Human Evolution Over?'*

## From the emails

Dear Editors,

In the Spring 2008 issue you welcomed the birth of Tarik Al-Omari: "a true Darwin baby if there ever was one". Indeed, there is one: Philip Benjamin Freeman whose parents, Paola Subacchi (1988) and Stephen Freeman (1988), are both Darwinians and met in College. Philip is now ten - our fault for being so late to announce his birth! *Paola Subacchi, London.*

(Editor's note: My own Darwinian descendants are now 28 and 26 – an even later announcement! It would be intriguing to try and catalogue all the offspring from Darwinian pairings. There must be many. Please send us your details.)



## An (almost) German song recital

On 21<sup>st</sup> September 2008 Miriam Alexandra (soprano) and Martin Rohrmeier (piano) gave a concert of songs by Purcell, Mozart, Clara Schuman and Hugo Wolf.

Martin has studied in Bonn and Cambridge. He began his musical life early with the recorder but drifted quickly towards the piano. During the 16 years since then he has performed at a number of concerts in Germany and other sunny places (such as the FIMU festival Belfort, France), then, having begun to sleep rather seldomly, to explore improvisation, contemporary music, and, rhythmically challenging forms of Jazz. As a pianist, he is currently interested in 18th century and early 20th-century music, and enjoys practising polyrhythmic fingertwists. He actively participates in the Cambridge music scene as Darwinist, soloist, and all-purpose accompanist, and polishes jazz song interpretations in his Jazz Duo. In his other life, he is pursuing a PhD at the Faculty of Music in Cambridge.



Miriam, who is not a Darwinian but recently married one (Daniel Wigbers), has studied music and performance in Karlsruhe, Cologne, and Harvard. She was a Visiting Scholar to the Music Faculty and pursuing her doctoral studies on the prima donna and composer Pauline Viardot-Garcia. Miriam had her opera debut in 2003 at the Frankfurt Chamber Opera and has performed regularly in concerts, opera productions and festivals. She is a scholar of the German Merit Foundation and has won first prizes in a number of competitions. Miriam has just finished recordings with the German National Broadcasting Station with songs of 19th Century composer Felix Mottl.

*Martin Rohrmeier (left)  
Miriam Alexandra (below)*



## Welcome to the new DCS Committee

Those of you who have been attending this year's programme of alumni dinners and events may have noticed a few new faces on the Darwin College Society Committee. Gloria Pungetti (PhD 1996) is the new Chair while Alex Smeets (PhD 1988) is Treasurer and Secretary. The previous Secretary, Fellow's Rep and Darwinian Editor Andrew Prentice (PhD 1978), remains active though is currently on sabbatical in Kenya. Derek Matravers (PhD 1994), Guy Roberts (PhD 2006), Sophia Davis (DCSA rep) and Chester White (Emeritus Fellow) complete the line-up. We are also very fortunate to have continued assistance from experienced "old hands" Terry Moore and his wife Helen, Andy Cross and Ceri Davies.

The new Committee has been working closely with the Alumni Office to organise a programme of events to complement the regular DCS dinners. Local heritage outings are always popular, and on a cold but sunny day in November a group of 20 alumni enjoyed a guided tour of Ely Cathedral



including an ascent to the very tip of the West Tower. For those who prefer warmer weather, a trip to the Great Fen project near Huntingdon is planned for June. Obviously in this "Year of Darwin" some of the events had to have a special Darwin flavour, and we kicked this off in spectacular fashion the evening before Charles Darwin's 200th birthday, when the Old Library was filled beyond capacity by alumni eager to hear pre-dinner reminiscences of no fewer than three of his great-grandchildren. Further pre-DCS dinner talks by Darwin scholars as well as a trip to Down House are being planned.

The new Committee is also keen to foster closer links between our alumni and our current members, particularly where such links can help our final-

year current members to get a head start in their careers by tapping into the knowledge and networks of our alumni. We haven't yet decided exactly how to do this, and we would love to hear from alumni willing to give younger fellow Darwinians a helping hand with their early careers, as well as from final-year current members who would like to get to know alumni in their chosen field. If you tell us how we can best put the two together, we'll do our best to make it happen! Please contact Alex at [asmeets@sky.com](mailto:asmeets@sky.com).

Alex Smeets (Secretary to DCS)

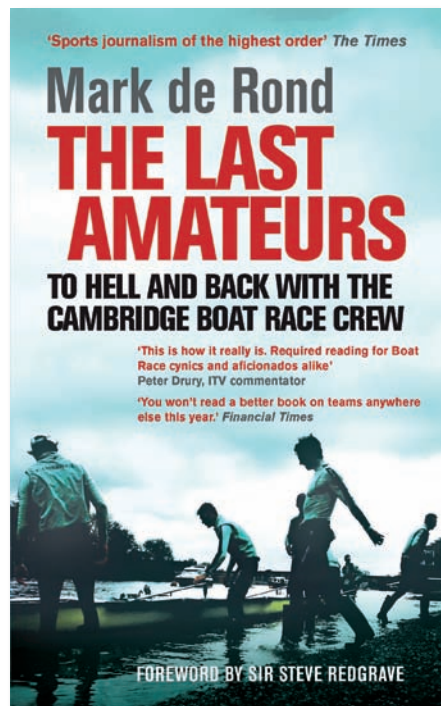
*Some of the new DCS Committee at a recent DCS Dinner (L to R): Guy Roberts, Chester White, Gloria Pungetti (Chair), Alex Smeets (Secretary), Ceri Davies, Andy Cross*



# Books

## The Last Amateurs

Mark de Rond



Darwin Fellow  
**Mark de Rond** was described last year by the Financial Times as Cambridge's secret weapon for the Boat Race. His new book

*The Last Amateurs: To Hell and Back with the Cambridge Boat Race Crew* is described by the publishers as 'Brideshead Revisited meets Fight Club in this thrilling, first-hand account of a year in the life of Cambridge University's Boat Race squad.'

'Founded in 1828, the Cambridge University Boat Club has one objective: to beat Oxford in the Boat Race. This annual affair is one of sharp contrasts: a private match between two of the world's oldest universities, it is still followed by millions worldwide; an occasion marked by tribal rivalry, it also harbours deep mutual respect; quintessentially British, it is contested by amateurs who are nevertheless

world-class sportsmen; it is all about taking part and yet the pain of losing is unimaginable. A Cambridge don in his late thirties, Mark de Rond spent a year living the blood, sweat and tears of the 39 students risking all for a chance to race Oxford, seeing in them everything he is not. This intense and deeply personal account reinforces the great traditions of Oxbridge, yet gives them a human face. For despite their brilliance, these individuals are flawed too. So what does it take to row in the coveted Blue Boat? De Rond delves into the depths of what it means to be a man and the primeval desire to compete. Told chronologically and driven by the pursuit of the final victory, the result is truly compelling and a sports book like no other.'

ISBN: 9781848310155

Publisher: ICON BOOKS

## Catherine Parr

Susan James

'Love is but a frailty of the mind when 'tis not to ambition joined.' So Thomas Seymour, destined to be Catherine Parr's fourth and last husband, expressed a notion taken as read in Tudor families of sufficient standing to seek social and financial ladders to climb. Catherine understood the ways of the world.



When at the age of 30, already twice sold into marriage and twice

widowed, she married the corpulent, ailing Henry VIII, she did so for her family's sake, suppressing, but not killing, her ardour for the rakish Seymour. 'You are,' she wrote of her wedding to her brother, 'the person who has most cause to rejoice.' So begins the Spectator's enthusiastic review of Susan James' biography of Catherine Parr published last year by Tempus (The History Press) (ISBN 0752448536).

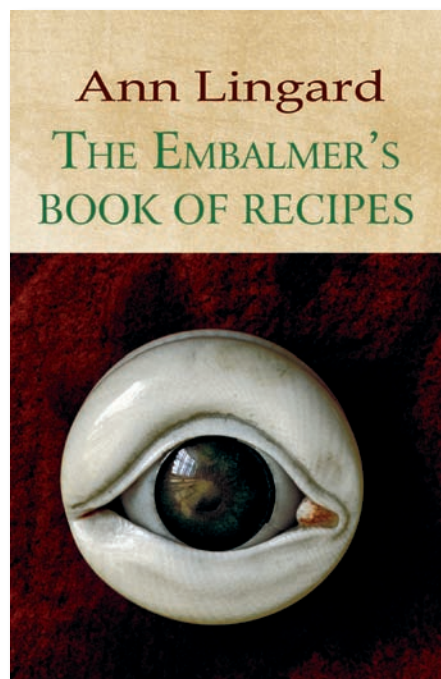
A California native, Susan James took her Ph.D. in British History at Darwin in 1977. Since then she has been an independent researcher and writer who has published extensively in British history, British art history and English literature. Her work on the full-length portrait of Kateryn Parr in the National Portrait Gallery, once believed to be Lady Jane Grey, led to its reidentification in 1996. Her upcoming book, 'The Feminine Dynamic in English Art, 1485-1603: Women as Consumers, Patrons and Painters', deals with the influence of women on the development of English art and is published by Ashgate Press, ISBN 9780754663812.

## The Embalmer's Book of Recipes

Ann Lingard

What do singing octopuses, Dutch tulip fields, Herdwick sheep and a piece of music based on the letters 'DNA' have in common? Lisa, a mathematician and achondroplastic, would be able to tell you; Ruth, a taxidermist and former nurse, might be able to work out the answer; Madeleine, widowed sheep-farmer, could not. To find the answers you will have to read Ann Lingard's latest novel 'The Embalmer's Book of Recipes' (Indepnpress, ISBN 978-1-90671-017-0) described by Nobel Laureate Professor Sir John Sulston as: 'An exhilarating and compelling read. A powerful and haunting story of genetic difference, interwoven with maths, taxidermy, and the tragedy of foot and mouth disease' and by the Oxford Times as 'A rich, absorbing, intriguing novel'.





## Seaside Pleasures

**Ann Lingard**

Ann Lingard's other novels are *Seaside Pleasures*, *Figure in a Landscape* and *The Fiddler's Leg*. *Floating Stones* is published as an e-book by Online Originals ([www.onlineoriginals.com](http://www.onlineoriginals.com)).



Ann was a research student at the Molteno Institute (Darwin 1970-72) before setting off on a scientific career, as Dr Ann Lackie, in Cambridge

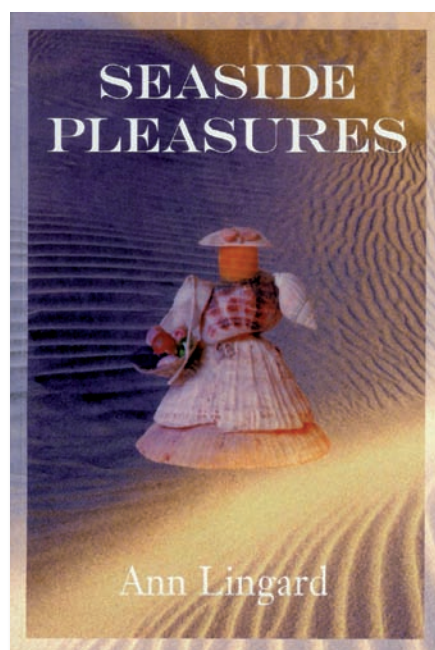
and Glasgow. In 1989 she leapt off the career ladder in order to write and broadcast, and since 2001 she and her husband have lived on a smallholding in West Cumbria, where they rear Herdwick sheep within sight of both the Lake District's Fells and the Solway Firth and Scottish hills. Even a cursory glance at Ann's website ([www.annlingard.com](http://www.annlingard.com)) indicates the depth and breadth of her talents and what must be an enormous energy.

Ann is the founder of **SciTalk**, ([www.scitalk.org.uk](http://www.scitalk.org.uk)), the popular and free resource, set up in 2005 with NESTA funding, that encourages fiction-writers to use science in their writing by visiting and talking to scientists. Needless to say, all her own novels contain some science and

scientists as characters, but are not in the least science-led.

In 2004, Ann and John (who held their wedding reception in Darwin in 1972) also set up Plumbland Consulting Ltd, offering a range of services related to science in higher education and industry, science communication, and advice on collaborations between science and the arts.

Among her many other talents Ann is a member of the Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers, and works with fleeces from Cumbrian-reared sheep, every breed with its own intriguing and sometimes challenging characteristics — shiny long fibres of black Zwartbles; tough, grey 'kemp-y' fibres of Lakeland's most famous breed, the Herdwick; caramel-coloured Castlemilk Moorits; dreadlocked Wensleydales; the kinks of the Blue-faced Leicester and soft black Hebrideans ...



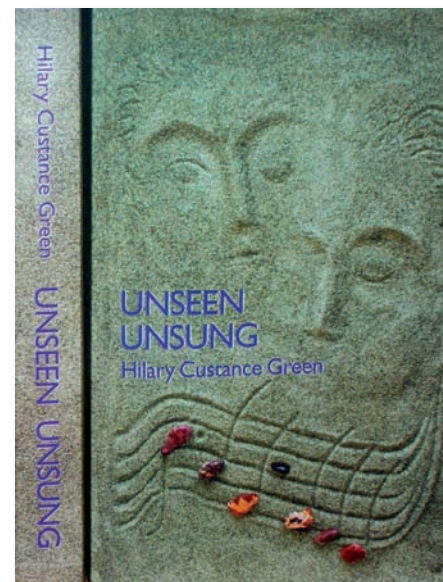
## Unseen Unsung

**Hilary Custance Green**

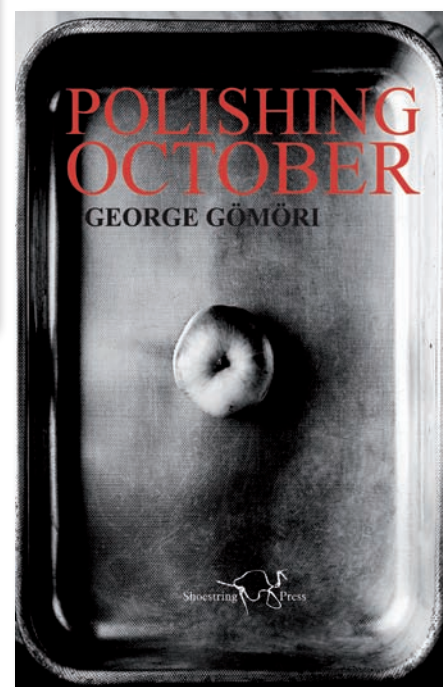
Luca, a brilliant and self-absorbed young opera singer, is buried in the rubble of a collapsed building. A girl crawls through the debris to comfort him and then vanishes. Did she die in the ruins or was she just a figment of his imagination? When he discovers the strange truth, he is unwilling to accept it.

This is a story of love between

two people who would never have met and never have found common ground without one of the catastrophes of modern life. *Unseen Unsung*, published by Threadgold Press, celebrates the power of music and the force of human survival in a complex world.



We featured Hilary's first book *A Small Rain* previously in the Darwinian. She obtained her PhD in psychology in Darwin and works for the Medical Research Council investigating the language and memory systems of the brain by studying various forms of early-onset Cognitive Disorders.



George Gömöri is an Emeritus Fellow of Darwin College; his most recent publication is a compelling collection of poems entitled 'Polishing October'.





Euan Nisbet



Peter and Mary Nisbet

# Challenge to Plant Methane Link



Ellen Nisbet

Or as one blog put it in response to the BBC News coverage 'Plants may not be methane-spewing climate criminals after all .....'

What started as a 'Friday afternoon experiment', and grew wings during a walking holiday in Switzerland, and matured over Darwin lunchtimes, has ended up as a much-publicised collaborative paper between a handful of Darwinians (and some others) led by Ellen Nisbet.

Three years ago a group from the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Germany suggested that plants could account for 10-45% of the global production of the greenhouse gas, methane. As methane is about 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide in its global warming effect this is clearly a serious issue. Ellen and her collaborators showed that plants do not contain a known biochemical pathway to make methane but that under high UV stress conditions, there may be a spontaneous breakdown of plant material, which releases methane. In addition, plants take up and transpire water containing dissolved methane, perhaps explaining the prior observation that methane is released. Together with a new analysis of global methane levels from satellite retrievals, Ellen's team concluded that plants are not a major source of global methane production.

Ellen (PhD 2004, Research Fellow 2004-07) recently left Darwin to take up a lectureship in Life Sciences at the University of South Australia in Adelaide. The other Darwinians involved were Ellen's father Euan Nisbet (PhD Darwin 1974, now Professor of Geology, Royal Holloway, University of London), Emily Shuckburgh (Fellow) and Derek Bendall (Emeritus Fellow). Ellen's brother Peter was also a co-author. He is not strictly a Darwinian but is the son of two Darwinians Euan and Mary Nisbet (née Mary Fowler, PhD 1976, now Professor of Geophysics, at Royal Holloway) who held their wedding reception at Darwin in 1975.

PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE ROYAL  
SOCIETY



*Proc. R. Soc. B* (2009) **276**, 1347–1354  
doi:10.1098/rspb.2008.1731  
Published online 13 January 2009

## Emission of methane from plants

R. E. R. Nisbet<sup>1,\*</sup>, R. Fisher<sup>2</sup>, R. H. Nimmo<sup>1</sup>, D. S. Bendall<sup>1</sup>, P. M. Crill<sup>3</sup>,  
A. V. Gallego-Sala<sup>4</sup>, E. R. C. Hornibrook<sup>4</sup>, E. López-Juez<sup>5</sup>, D. Lowry<sup>2</sup>,  
P. B. R. Nisbet<sup>2,6</sup>, E. F. Shuckburgh<sup>7</sup>, S. Sriskantharajah<sup>2</sup>, C. J. Howe<sup>1</sup>  
and E. G. Nisbet<sup>2</sup>







# Darwinians in Hong Kong

Tim Summers, Kin Hong Wong, Gavin Tang and Darren Lam joined Martin Jones for an excellent mid autumn festival meal, ranging from shark fin soup to eels and abalone. Kim Hong graduated in the mid 80s, Tim in the mid 90s, and Gavin and Darren in recent years. It was stimulating to hear about the extraordinary range of high powered jobs they were doing in this electric city, and to hear their thoughts and aspirations about China's future. Raymond Ho, who had done a lot to organise the event was unfortunately called away on business to the States at the last minute. We finished the evening in one of the centre's trendy cocktail bars, and the group made plans to meet up on a more regular basis in the future.

*Seated left to right: Tim, Martin, Darren, Gavin. Standing: Kin Hong*

## Nzunda Memorial Lecture Series Established

The Faculty of Law at the University of Malawi has established a new lecture series in memory and recognition of Dr Matembo Nzunda who studied his PhD in law at Darwin (1984-87). Dr Nzunda was one of Malawi's most respected jurists and members of Parliament who passed away in 2000 while serving in the Malawi Government. Having taught in the Law Faculty for many years he was a skilled negotiator, draftsman and orator who used his powerful intellect, sound judgment and disarming sense of humour to promote an appreciation and practical realisation of democratic principles in society. As one of the principal architects and champions of the Malawi Constitution, he was a guiding light in parliament, in the government ministries he headed and in the university.

It is envisaged that there will be annual lectures commencing in 2009. The lectures will cover a range of topics that are central to a balanced understanding of good governance such as inclusiveness, democratic participation and political legitimacy, forms of accountability and mechanisms such as transparency and access to information, effectiveness of service delivery, respect for the rule of law and the protection of human rights.

## Old Darwinian Garden Party

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009, 6.00pm to 7.30pm**

Come and join us for this year's Darwin College Society Summer Party!

The College invites you and your family to an informal buffet supper held in the College grounds if the weather is good. Meet up with old friends in the College's beautiful garden. Come straight from work or feel free to drop in at any time between 6.00pm and 7.30pm if you are travelling from further afield!

After the party many people take the opportunity to hone their punting skills or adjourn to the College bar. We very much look forward to seeing you soon.

Please e-mail or telephone your acceptance by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009** at the latest.

E-mail [alumni.office@dar.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni.office@dar.cam.ac.uk)  
Phone +44 1223 335690.

When you contact us please provide the following details:

- Your name and when you attended College
- The number and names of the guests you are bringing
- The ages of any children attending
- Your contact e-mail address and telephone number

# We look forward to seeing you there!



# Achievements

Dr **Madan Babu** (Schlumberger Research Fellow) has been awarded the Genomic Pioneers Special Award by Human Genome Organisation (HUGO) and Ocimum Biosolutions and the Biochemical Society Early Career Award.

Prof **Harry Bhadeshia** has been appointed as the first Tata Steel Professor of Metallurgy at Cambridge.

Dr **Elizabeth Blackburn** (whose many garlands have been noted previously in the Darwinian) was recipient of the 2008 Albany Medical Center Prize. The award was shared with Dr Joan Steitz. Both women were formerly at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge.

Prof **Willy Brown** was appointed Chairman of the School of the Humanities and Social Sciences with effect from 1 October 2009.

Dr **Susan Jebb**, an active supporter of the Darwin College Society, was awarded an OBE for services to nutrition.

Prof **Martin Jones** had been awarded the "Food Book of the Year" prize for his book "Feast: Why Humans Share Food."

Dr **James Kirkbride** has been awarded a four-year Wellcome Trust Research Fellowship.

Dr **Iain Morley** was awarded the Hunt Fellowship from the Wenner-Green Foundation for Anthropological Research.

Dr **Joe Murray** received the Nigel Walker Prize for his PhD in Criminology, and the Distinguished Young Scholar Award of the American Society of Criminology, Division of Corrections and Sentencing.

Prof **Roger Whitehead** (former Vice-Master) was honoured at the opening of the Uganda Nutrition Congress by the wife of the President of Uganda, and First Lady, who presented him with an engraved plaque "In recognition and appreciation of dedicated service to nutrition in Uganda".

Dr **John Swenson Wright** has been awarded a Toyota Fellowship by Seoul National University (SNU) and is now spending 6 months of his current sabbatical at the Graduate School of International Relations in Seoul. John teaches a graduate course on the Cold War in East Asia and is carrying out research into Japan-Korea post-1945 relations. He would be pleased to meet alumni in Seoul and is planning an Old Darwinian Dinner.

# Obituaries

## Judith Ann Bailey (1934 – 2008)



Judy Bailey, a former Fellow of Darwin College was known to thousands of computer users and others in the University of Cambridge in the 1970s and 1980s.

She was a woman of many parts and of trenchant views who was instrumental with her colleagues in providing Cambridge with some of the best

computing facilities in the academic world.

The embryonic subject of Computing took her interest and, in 1960, she left teaching to go to Cambridge to take the Diploma in Numerical Analysis and Automatic Computing, which she was awarded in 1961. Judy was one of the many who put aside the more traditional disciplines to enter this new subject in times of intense pioneering. After a varied career working for the likes of Professor Sir Martin Ryle and Sir Maurice Wilkes she rose to become Deputy Director of the University Computing Service and remained in that position until she retired in 1988.

In the days of a single mainframe computer Judy had the extraordinary ability to know and understand the work of every single user, and to make wise decisions on allocating resources whenever the demand arose. For all the advanced technology employed by the Computing Service in those years, Judy was the one person to interface that technology with almost half the Cambridge University population of academics, staff and students.

She was a knowledgeable and enthusiastic listener to music, and there was never any room for doubt about her likes and dislikes. On retirement, she first studied for an A-level in music and went on to take a degree at

Anglia Ruskin University. She was an accomplished pianist, organist, oboist, flautist, cellist and recorder player and was active in the Cambridge University Musical Society.

*An extended version of this obituary can be found at: [www.admin.cam.ac.uk/news/dp/2008060302](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/news/dp/2008060302).*

## Thomas Cocke (1949-2008)

*The following is an edited extract from an obituary published in The Times on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2008.*

**Architectural historian who made an invaluable contribution to the preservation of Britain's ecclesiastical heritage**

Aged 16 Thomas Cocke passed his A levels and won an open scholarship to Pembroke College, Cambridge. With two years to wait before going up to Cambridge he left Marlborough (where he was a scholar) and went on his travels. After visiting the US, where he became an honorary member of a Native American tribe, he went to Bologna to stay with an aunt. There he learnt Italian and laid the foundations of his lifelong interest in Italian art and architecture.

At Pembroke he changed from classics



to history, winning a first and then moving to the Courtauld Institute where he was one of a group of talented art history students. His PhD thesis was on Attitudes to the Restoration of Medieval Buildings in England from c 1550 to c 1775.



He joined the expanding History of Art Department of Manchester University in 1973, teaching post-medieval art history, and then returned to his roots in London and Cambridge. In Cambridge, he became involved with the architectural life of the city as a member of the Listed Buildings Panel and teacher at the Faculty of Architecture and Darwin College, where he was elected a Fellow in 1987.

In 1990 he became secretary of the Council for the Care of Churches, the Church of England body which advises on and assesses schemes for remodelling churches. In this post his great knowledge of liturgy and commitment as a practising Anglican led him to play an important role as a negotiator at a time of enormous pressure for often damaging change. After the Heritage Lottery Fund began its joint scheme of grants to churches with English Heritage in 1995 he was an influential member of the advisory panel.

Cocke's interest in church furnishings prompted an increasing role in church recording, particularly in the voluntary work being done by the National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies (Nadfas). In 2001 he became the chief executive of Nadfas. Among many other achievements he played a key role in the exhibition Nine Hundred Years: the Restorations of Westminster

Abbey held in St Margaret's Westminster in 1993.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1983, serving on its Council from 2004-08, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 1997. Thomas Cocke was a devoted family man and a generous host to a wide circle of friends. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, and by a son and daughter.

*Full versions of Thomas' obituaries in The Times, The Independent and The Church Times can be found at [www.dar.cam.ac.uk/darwinian/darwinian.htm](http://www.dar.cam.ac.uk/darwinian/darwinian.htm)*

## Milo Keynes (1924 – 2009)

Friend to the College and Honorary Fellow, William Milo Keynes, DM, MD, FRCS, physician and author, died in February 2009. Milo was the third son of Sir Geoffrey Keynes and his wife Margaret Darwin, daughter of Sir George Darwin. He was a great-grandson of the naturalist Charles Darwin, and a nephew of the economist John Maynard Keynes. We will feature a full obituary in our next issue.

## Conn Murphy (1970-2008)

Many recent Darwinians will have fond memories of Dr. Conn Murphy, who sadly passed away in Cork, Ireland, in December 2008. Before joining Darwin College in 1994 Conn studied Theatre at Trinity College, Dublin, his home town. He had diverse

academic interests and was especially passionate about Minoan architecture and Irish contributions to Greek culture. He spent many field seasons in Crete, undertaking the research that would form the basis of his doctoral dissertation, and he received his Ph.D. in Archaeology in 1999.

Conn enjoyed College life to the full and was extremely committed to the Darwin community. Much of his free time was spent supporting College activities and he managed both the Darwin Bar and the Library. He was also a talented musician and singer/songwriter, and played in a College band, All Benign.

After leaving Cambridge, Conn moved first to Cork and then to Heidelberg, Germany. He eventually returned to Cork, where he worked for Headland Archaeology Ltd, an archaeological contract firm.

Conn possessed a great wit, and will also be remembered for his charisma and creativity. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

**A fund is being established to buy books on Mediterranean archaeology for the Darwin Library in memory of Dr. Conn Murphy. Donations may be sent to Sophia Smith, Alumni Secretary, along with a note specifying that the donation is to contribute to the Conn Murphy Memorial Fund. Cheques should be payable to 'Darwin College'. Members wishing to donate using a credit card can access a payment form at [www.dar.cam.ac.uk/alumni/forms/Alumni%20Donation%20Form.pdf](http://www.dar.cam.ac.uk/alumni/forms/Alumni%20Donation%20Form.pdf)**





# The 2008 Royal Institution Christmas Lecture Series

## Professor Chris Bishop

Michael Faraday, a former Director of the Royal Institution, started the RI Christmas Lecture Series in 1825 and, barring a brief interruption during World War II, they have been held annually ever since. In 2008 Chris Bishop, Darwin Fellow, became the third Darwinian to face the cameras and present the RI Lectures. Former Fellows Gordon Robin and Max Perutz were involved in the 1958 and 1980 series.

At a time when more computers are manufactured every year than the world's total population Chris' series 'Hi-tech Trek - The Quest for the Ultimate Computer' tackled questions such as: How is it possible to build a machine as complex as the microprocessor with a billion tiny components packed into a space the size of a postage stamp? And why is a three year old toddler better at recognising everyday objects than the world's most powerful supercomputer?

The five lectures took the audience on a hi-tech trek through the digital world, exploring the fascinating science

which makes it all possible. They looked at some of the potential future directions for computer technology, and emphasized that we are still at the dawn of the information age, with many exciting challenges and opportunities ahead.



Darwinian readers with children to entertain (either actual or metaphorical) should visit the RI website and try their hand at a series of online games created for the series ([www.rigb.org/christmaslectures08/](http://www.rigb.org/christmaslectures08/)). A DVD of the lectures can also be ordered through this web site.

Chris Bishop is Chief Research Scientist at Microsoft Research, and Professor of Computer Science at the University of Edinburgh where he is a member of the Institute for Adaptive and Neural Computation. He has been elected Fellow of the British Computer Society, the Royal Academy of Engineering, and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and has an Honorary Doctor of Science from Oxford Brookes University.

Chris is the author of the leading textbook *Neural Networks for Pattern Recognition* (Oxford University Press, 1995) for which Google Scholar lists over 11,500 citations. His latest textbook *Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning* (Springer, 2006) has also been very influential. His research interests include probabilistic approaches to machine learning, as well as their application to fields such as biomedical sciences and healthcare.

Chris holds a Commercial Pilot's Licence, and for relaxation he enjoys flying light aircraft, including aerobatics in an Extra 200 unlimited-category aerobatic aircraft.



*Central photo: Chris holding a model of a carbon nanotubes. These structures might one day be used to make electronic components that can switch a thousand times faster than their silicon counterparts*



# Gorilla Appeal

The Gorilla Organization ([www.gorillas.org](http://www.gorillas.org)) is one of several charities inspired by Darwinian Dian Fossey, whose life, work and death also inspired the Hollywood film 'Gorillas in the Mist'.

To raise funds for the organization's conservancy work in Central Africa another Darwinian, Layla Skinns, the Adrian Socio-Legal Research Fellow, will tackle the 2009 London Marathon accompanied by her twin sister, Jessica – dressed as gorillas of course!

"As the day draws closer I am filled with excitement and trepidation, in equal measure. I am confident that I will finish the marathon, but I wonder whether my training, through the coldest winter for a decade, will pay off and I can meet my goal of less than four hours." So far the Skinns twins have raised £1400 of their £3000 target. Please give them a boost by making a donation at [www.justgiving.com/laylaskinns](http://www.justgiving.com/laylaskinns).



## Stunning Performance by DCBC at the Head of the River Race

Darwin College Boat Club would like to thank everybody who came down to London to watch us compete in the biggest rowing event in the world. Darwin men's first VIII started at position 347 out of 420 boats and finished at an impressive 183rd place among many top international Crews and 144 positions higher than last year. DCBC beat most of the other Cambridge crews e.g. Emmanuel, Magdalene, Jesus, Christ's, Selwyn, Churchill, King's, Sidney Sussex, Anglia Ruskin Etc. This is the best result for DCBC at the Head of the River Race since the club's existence.

**Dominic Schmidt**







Jonathan 'Jono' Lawton (Darwin, PhD Natural Science 2004) and Siobhan 'Shivs' Ni Chonaill (Darwin, PhD English 2002) married on the west coast of Ireland on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2008.



HH Sheikh Hazza bin Sultan bin Zayed Al-Nahyan of Abu Dhabi in the UAE (Darwin 2005) graduating at the Senate House in July 2008 with an MPhil in Modern Society and Global Transformations. The Darwinian has also noted that Sheikh Hazza was crowned winner of the 2009 President's Cup for Youth Endurance Race which was ridden over 120km at Bu Dheeb International Endurance Village.

# Darwin Alumni Visit to Ely Cathedral

The first DCS Local Heritage event was a successful visit to the magnificent Cathedral at Ely. The sight of the cathedral towering in silhouette against the sky for miles around, fully justifying its local name of 'Ship of the Fens', made directions unnecessary. The Met Office had relented, and offered up much better weather than originally forecast as a group of alumni joined a cathedral guide for the tour.

For an hour we were entertained and educated on the construction, the structural failures and the important personalities from Etheldreda onwards. Our guide pointed out the paintings and stone masonry telling tales of travel and history, he showed us 'stone masons' jokes' and religious figures with countenances modelled on clergy

or other influential figures of the time as well as faceless figures, disfigured during the Reformation.

One group of 15 (the maximum allowed) were taken to the top of the West Tower where the excellent visibility offered magnificent views compensating a little for the bitterly cold fen wind at that height and the long climb. The other group visited the Stained Glass Museum, a national collection beautifully presented. Finally we met again and took the short walk to the adjacent medieval buildings which brought both warmth and cheer as we sat down to lunch at a single long table at the Almonry Restaurant.

**Terry Moore**







*Bronze statue of Charles Darwin at Christ's College.  
Photo Credit: Richard Lewisohn*

# Darwin Magazine Puzzle

## 'Twenty-four'

by Groucho

In the game '24', the object is to make the number 24 from the four numbers you are given. You can add, subtract, multiply and divide. Use all four numbers; use each number only once.

For example, if the numbers are 1, 8, 5, 9 then a solution is  $(9 - 1 - 5) \times 8 = 24$ .

Here are three sets of numbers; the third is probably the most challenging.

- a) 6, 6, 2, 5
- b) 3, 5, 7, 8
- c) 7, 7, 3, 3

### *Editors:*

Andrew Prentice  
Sophia Smith  
Dean Hawkes

The editors especially welcome short articles, pictures, artwork and news from our overseas alumni.

**Correspondence to:**  
darwinian@dar.cam.ac.uk

## Calendar of alumni events

### 2009

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May  
Darwin Society Dinner

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June  
Former Fellows' Reunion

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June  
Day trip to the Great Fen Project

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June  
1972-1980 Reunion Dinner

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July  
Old Darwinian Summer Garden Party

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September  
Alumni Buffet lunch

