



DARWIN COLLEGE E-BULLETIN JUNE 2009

www.darwin.cam.ac.uk/alumni

Dear 'Old Darwinian',

Welcome to the Darwin College June 2009 e-bulletin. Here we list news and alumni events from both Darwin and the wider University community. If you would like more details on anything included, please do not hesitate to phone or e-mail. It is always a great pleasure to talk to our alumni/ae and help them where we can.

DARWIN HAPPENINGS

Darwin Bicentenary

Darwin College is so named because Charles Darwin's second son, Sir George (1845-1912, Plumian Professor of Astronomy in this University from 1883), bought Newnham Grange and the Old Granary in 1885. In 1962, the Darwin family agreed the buildings should form the core of a new graduate College. So strictly speaking Darwin College has no direct link to Charles Darwin, but this has not stopped College celebrations of Charles Darwin's bicentennial year.



In February alumni enjoyed an evening celebrating Darwin's birth. We enjoyed a fascinating and absorbing talk by one of his great grand children, Professor Horace Barlow, followed by Formal Hall. The event was so well attended to over capacity and we operated a waiting list. The insight into the Darwin family history fascinated all who were lucky enough to attend.

The picture (left) shows Professor Barlow cutting a special Darwin anniversary cake at Formal Hall.

Darwin's Descendants' Family Party

Early in June over ninety of Charles Darwin's direct descendants enjoyed a family lunch and garden party. More details will be in the next Darwinian newsletter.

Charles Darwin's direct descendants enjoying the afternoon together at Darwin College.



Darwin Anniversary Festival – 5th-10th July

The University has organised a Festival to celebrate the life and work of Charles Darwin. Go to <http://www.darwin2009.cam.ac.uk/> for more information and booking details.

College personalities on the web

Dr Elizabeth Blackburn (PhD Darwin 1971-1975) received an Honorary Degree from Cambridge University on Friday 11th June. Footage of the ceremony and interview with the graduands (including Bill and Melinda Gates) can be found at <http://www.800.cam.ac.uk/page/130/university-of-cambridge-honorary-degrees-2009.htm>

Congratulations to Darwin Fellows Professor Jennifer Clack (Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology in the University's Museum of Zoology) and Professor David MacKay, both of whom have been elected Fellows of the Royal Society. David MacKay has recently been investigating some of the myths about energy saving and showing what actually can make a difference in the home. However, individual efforts are not enough, he says. Instead, he suggests, we need to make sweeping national changes to our energy production. You can view David's film at <http://www.800.cam.ac.uk/page/122/cambridge-ideas-how-many-lightbulbs.htm>.

The Spring 2009 issue of *'The Darwinian'* featured a book about the Cambridge boat crew by another Darwin Fellow, Mark de Rond. In *'The Last Amateurs'*, Mark drew on two years of ethnographic research with the Cambridge University Boat Club; much of this was also filmed and can be viewed at <http://www.800.cam.ac.uk/page/101/cambridge-ideas-the-perfect-crew.htm>.

College Alumni Events – 'Dates for Your Diary'

Friday, 26th June 2009 – Reunion Dinner 1972-1980

There are still some spaces if you find you are now free to book in to attend this event. Please e-mail Sophia on sas65@cam.ac.uk or phone her on 01223 335690.

Friday, 10th July 2009 – Old Darwinians' Garden Party – 6.00pm to 7.30pm

This ever-popular event is open to all Old Darwinians and their families – an invitation was in the last Darwinian newsletter; if you would like to attend please e-mail Sophia with your name, the number and names of guests you are bringing, the ages of any children attending and your contact details. Guest accommodation in College always fills up fast, so if you will be travelling any distance to attend and would like to see if you can stay here – please do book early.

Saturday, 25th July 2009 – Darwin College Society's 'Darwin Day'

The DCS is planning a special day celebrating the fascinating life of Charles Darwin in this his bicentennial year. Notification will be e-mailed out to local Old Darwinians within the next week; if you live further afield and are interested in attending, please e-mail Sophia and she will send you an invitation. The programme for the day:

10.00am for 10.30: Arrive Darwin College

10.30-12.30: Two absorbing talks about Charles Darwin from world- renowned experts.

Professor Mario Di Gregorio is Professor of the History of Science at the University of L'Aquila, Italy and Life Member of Darwin College. He has written on various aspects of the history of life sciences, especially zoology and is currently editing Darwin's Marginalia. He explores Darwin's debt to Hume and gives an inside and intimate look into the life of Darwin, how he abandoned special creation in favour of evolution, and the relationship between science and religion in Darwin's time as well as ours.

Professor David Kohn is Oxnam Professor of Science and Society, Emeritus at Drew University, Research Associate at the American Museum of Natural History Library, Senior Research Fellow of the Charles Darwin Trust, and Life Member of Clare Hall. He was the first full-time editor of The Correspondence of Charles Darwin and has published Charles Darwin's Notebooks: 1836-1842 in collaboration with Paul Barrett, Peter Gautrey, Sandra Herbert, and Sidney Smith. He is currently transcribing Darwin scientific manuscripts.

12.45-2.30: Lunch at Darwin College

2.30- 4.00: Visit to the Darwin Exhibition at the Cambridge University Library with Professors Di Gregorio and Kohn

4.00-6.00: Punting, College Library visit or free time

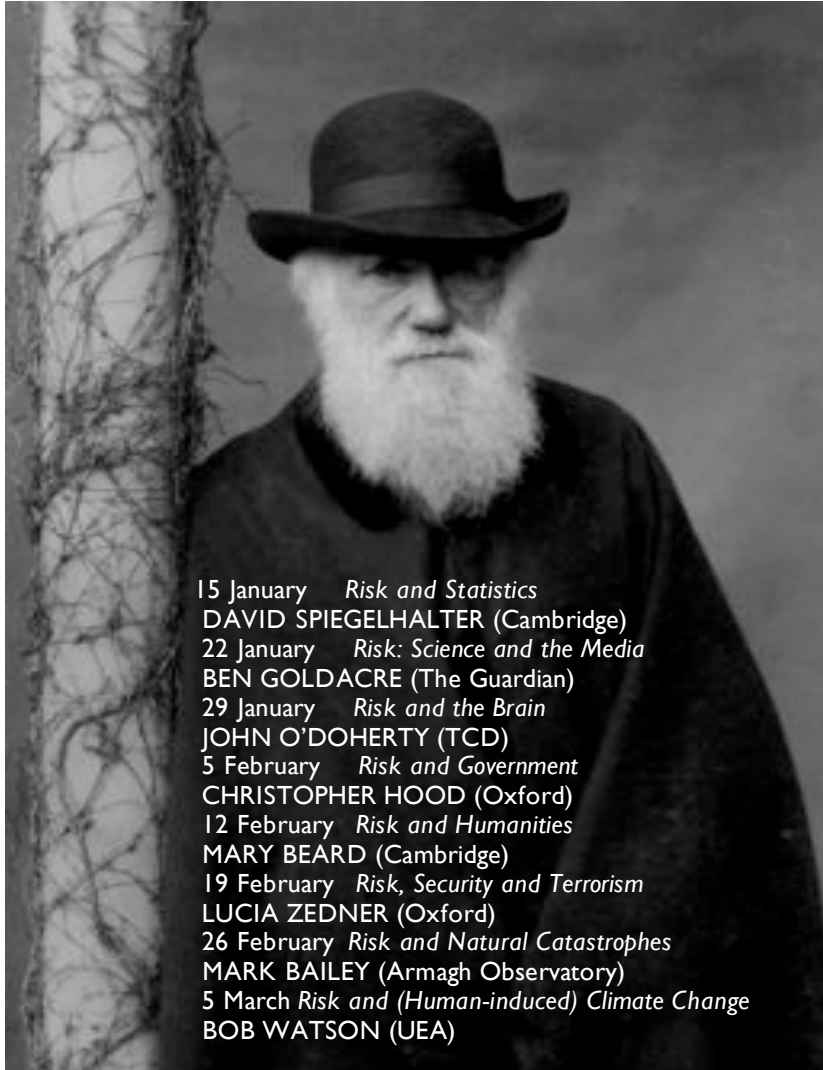
7.00: Dinner at the Sala Thong (the Thai restaurant in Newnham Road)

Saturday, 26th September – Old Darwinians Family Buffet Lunch



The College plans to host a **Family Buffet Lunch** in the College's beautiful grounds (weather allowing) for alumni/ae, their partners and children on Saturday, 26th September, at 12.45pm for 1.00pm, coinciding with the University Alumni Weekend. Come along and enjoy, and also take the chance to enjoy the many interesting lectures and tours of the weekend. Cost for lunch will be £12.50 for adults (including wine) and free for children. Invitations will be sent out to local alumni in July; if you live further afield and can attend please e-mail Sophia.

25th Darwin College Lecture Series 2010



The theme for the 25th Darwin College Lecture Series is 'Risk', a list of the planned lectures is shown on the left.

Confirmed details will be on our website later in the year.

'Lost Alumni'

The College has lost contact with a number of 'Old Darwinians' over the years. Their names are listed by matriculation year on the Darwin website; please take a look and see if there are any names you recognise! Go to <http://www.dar.cam.ac.uk/alumni/lostalumni/index.shtml>.

Your Contact Details?

If your contact details have changed recently, please take a few moments to go to www.darwin.cam.ac.uk/alumni and complete our on-line update survey. Alternatively, e-mail alumni.office@dar.cam.ac.uk as soon as possible after the change.

If you no longer want to receive these bulletins once a quarter (we of course hope that will not be the case...!), then please e-mail sas65@cam.ac.uk to let us know to take you off the list. On the other hand, if you know of someone else who might like to receive these e-mails – please forward it to them; they can then register for the bulletins at www.darwin.cam.ac.uk/alumni.

...Oh, and don't forget to leave us your feedback on the update survey!

With all best wishes

The Darwin College Alumni Team