



# THE Darwinian



## A New Master for Darwin College:

Dr Mike Rands was installed as our seventh Master on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020



A Message from our New Master



Darwin College and the fight against COVID-19 and future Coronavirus Epidemics



The DCSA and the "New Normal"

# A Message from our New Master

## Dr Mike Rands



**Above:**  
Mike Rands by the  
Darwin Bridge  
Photo Credit:  
Andrzej Bugajski

**O**n 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 I received a phone call with the news that I had been elected as the seventh Master of Darwin College. I still recall the elation and excitement, mixed with some anxiety, that swept through me at that moment – and remained with me for another year before I was formally admitted to the College!

I've now had the privilege of serving as College Master for two months and it has been a most enriching and enjoyable experience. Inevitably, the coronavirus pandemic has dominated much of our thinking, consultation and action but even this global challenge has highlighted for me some of the College's key assets: our dedicated and professional staff; our committed and caring officers and Fellows; the passion and brilliance of our students; and the loyalty and generosity of our alumni.

My elation at being elected as Master continues. While COVID-related restrictions have curtailed my ability to get to know the College community as well as I would have wished, numerous Zooms, phone calls, emails and socially distanced one-to-one meetings over coffee in our temporary garden marquee have given me a real sense of the College's distinct and remarkable attributes.

The ambitious plans for the Darwin College Lecture Series in 2021 and 2022, listening to the online research seminars in the humanities and the sciences, welcoming outstanding new Research Fellows and Associates, and getting to know the research work of Fellows and students, has highlighted to me the rich diversity and quality of scholarship the College nurtures. The Governing

“ I believe we can build on the vision and progressive attitudes of our founders.”

Body, Council and College Committee meetings are impressively well organized and attended and transparent in their governance and communications. I've been particularly pleased to see the active student (DCSA) participation in College decision making.

My excitement at becoming Master has grown and it is clear to me that Darwin is intellectually vibrant, multidisciplinary and international in its perspectives as well as being a friendly, sociable community. I believe we can harness these characteristics to nurture outstanding people and ideas that will change the world. To support this, I intend to focus my attention in three areas for the benefit of our students: championing and strengthening academic excellence; enhancing the College's community and infrastructure; and promoting global responsibility and sustainability. I will seek to build a higher profile for the College, its activities and what it stands for, and encourage collaboration across disciplinary boundaries to address 'wicked problems' and global challenges.

I am anxious, even after a term surrounded by delightful Darwinians, that in addition to the current pandemic, society faces a growing number of challenges to which we must rise. These include mental health issues, inequality, diversity, climate change and the loss of biodiversity. The size and scale of these issues is vast, and they require our urgent attention, both as academically trained professionals and as responsibly engaged citizens.

My overriding feeling though, after my first term at Darwin, is one of optimism. I believe we can build on the vision and progressive attitudes of our founders. We can harness the experience and ideas of our alumni and benefactors, the research and teaching of our Fellows and the scholarship and innovation of our students. And together, the Darwin community can play an important role in creating a fairer and sustainable world for all.

**Dr Rands came to Darwin after a successful Directorship of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI), a collaboration between the University of Cambridge and the internationally focused cluster of biodiversity conservation organisations based around Cambridge. As Director of CCI, he oversaw an initiative which seeks to transform the global understanding and conservation of biodiversity through the integration of research, education, policy and practice. Dr Rands is broadly interested in interdisciplinary approaches to conserving the natural world; environmental governance and capacity development; and innovative solutions to global challenges, especially environmental change and sustainability. He took up the office of Master after the retirement of Professor Mary Fowler on 30 September 2020.**



**Above:** The Master signs the Admittance Book



**Left:** The Admittance of the New Master. From Left to Right: Professor Jonathan Heeney (Vice-Master), Dr Mike Rands (Master), Mr Julian Evans (College Secretary), Professor Fiona Karet (Vice-Master), Mr John Dix (Bursar) and Mr Tim Milner (Deputy Praelector)  
Photo Credit: Andrzej Bugajski



## A Farewell Message from Professor Mary Fowler

Master from October 2012 to October 2020

“Nowhere else in Cambridge can quite claim so strongly this wonderful combination of youth and wisdom, history and modesty working together in a lovely setting.”

**D**arwin College is a wonderful community: it was an unbelievable honour to have been the Master. The eight years gave time to meet and to listen, time to build, time to hope: to every thing a season, and time for every purpose.

In 2011 when Darwin advertised for their next Master, my memories of being a Darwin student in the 1970s came to the fore. Back then the College was little-known and small, but warm, humming with energy. The first college just for graduates and the first for both women and men, it was interdisciplinary and international, such a different place.

My hope in applying was that I could help keep and enhance what was so special about Darwin, its ethos, informality and friendliness, its happiness - yet at the same time fostering its excellence, its quality. Quite simply, I wanted the established Darwin College to continue as one of the best places on the planet to be a graduate student, a post-doc, a Fellow or an Associate Member.

Looking back to my application, I said:

*Darwin College is a lovely place, a remarkable college. In many ways it feels hardly different from when I was a student, welcoming and comfortable – changes and improvements have not altered the feel of the place. Nowhere else in Cambridge can quite claim so strongly this wonderful combination of youth and wisdom, history and modesty working together in a lovely setting.*

*As a place it has created a welcoming beauty, and this is of great value towards hosting a real community of thought, of academe, which will attract some of the best minds of each generation. As a community, Darwin has a remarkable reputation. More perhaps than any college you excel in Cambridge's special skill: fostering cross-disciplinary and inter-generational discussion, whether in lunch or garden or punt, or a set-piece event. I pay much tribute to a fine succession of Masters and Fellows. This has always been a happy and welcoming place, and that shows.*

My thoughts then still stand today.

I didn't at first appreciate quite the full range of a Master's responsibilities. But even once settled in, one worry remained – conferring degrees in Latin, not a language I knew. So I practised and learnt to recite parrot fashion, since some degrees like *Magistri in Jure Negotiationes Societatum* are real tongue-twisters. Degree Congregations and the celebrations with you and your families and friends were such happy events and the innovation of a large marquee in the garden for a served sit-down lunch gave us plenty of space sheltered from sun, wind and rain.

I must also record the deep sorrows of these years too. Darwin is now over 50 years old, and as time passes, so do treasured friends and colleagues. We've lost Fellows who helped build and sustain the foundations of our College: John Bradfield, Derek Bendall, Philip McNair, Patrick Sissons, David MacKay, Stephen Keynes, Kiyoshi Nagai, Willy Brown and Richard King, along with many others in the wider Darwinian community. They are all valued, missed and mourned.

**Left:**  
*Mary Fowler in her Study*  
**Below:**  
*Mary Fowler introducing a Lecture during the Darwin College Lecture Series*  
*Photo Credit: Sir Cam*



“In a graduate college you have the chance to help and shape the next generation of our global society. . . . You have some of the best and brightest in the world here – what could be a better challenge than making it work well?”

In 1962 a document, “*Notes on Possible Establishment and Finance of a Very Modest Graduate College*”, was written by John Bradfield, Senior Bursar of Trinity College. The note was a gem – setting out everything for a College of 40 Fellows and 40 students. But John did more – he helped guide Darwin for the next half-century. In his memory, with much support from Darwinians and very generously from Trinity, we’ve done two things. As we were very short of study, seminar and social space, we have built the Bradfield Room. Moreover, the beloved Old Granary that was so desperately in need of refurbishment has been beautifully renovated and is now good for another century – it remains the student accommodation with the wonderful view. Our close connections with the Darwin family are much cherished. Advice and support from Stephen Keynes was invaluable when we were considering the restoration work; he was the nephew of Gwen Raverat and had lived in the Old Granary with her.

We haven’t just been busy on our main site. We’ve been improving and adding to our residential accommodation with new additions: 26 rooms at Hardwick House, 10 rooms at 51 Newnham Road, 32 rooms and 12 studios at Mount Pleasant, and 4 more flats in Newnham. There are also further plans and I hope some important new additions that are still in the pipeline.

Darwin members like Dame Jane Francis, Director of the British Antarctic Survey, and Sir David MacKay, author of *Sustainable Energy - Without The Hot Air*, have played a crucial role in making society aware of climate change, not just in the UK but worldwide; and that means we must put our own house in order. We are developing and implementing plans to cut the environmental footprint of all our activities, from energy and heating to our wider holdings.

Food is important. They say an army marches on its stomach, but colleges do too. Our catering team serves great food under Ivan Higney’s splendid leadership. Breakfast, lunch, supper and dinners, brunch at weekends, BBQs in the summer, superb formal halls, grand events - we are so well looked after. The chefs have been winning prizes and what’s more Darwin Kitchens have earned a Gold Green Impact award, leading the way with sustainable and ethical policies.

The people we see most day to day are the marvellous College staff. I’d especially like to thank them for their extraordinary efforts since March when they kept everyone looked after with kindness, unselfish help, effective and rapid responses to unexpected challenges. Of all the colleges, Darwin had the most people in residence through the spring and summer lockdown.

Much of my day-to-day work has been with the Bursar, Vice-Masters, Development Director, Dean, Praelector, Archivist and so many others. To them my deep thanks for their friendship, for putting up with me, even when I was lost in a packed pre-Christmas New York without a hotel, or triple booked for meetings or had lost my papers. We have a truly superb management team – calm, competent and far-sighted.

It has been a pleasure to get to know Mike Rands, our new Master, with whom I have worked closely in our handover period. Mike is very experienced, wise and dedicated, and I’m sure he will be an excellent leader in these complex and difficult times. He has my very best wishes and support and I am sure that you will all support him too.

I’m going to end by going back to my remarks when I applied for the post.

... *In a graduate college you have the chance to help and shape the next generation of our global society. . . . You have some of the best and brightest in the world here – what could be a better challenge than making it work well?”*

This is a time of change. My parents and grandparents saw the fearsome conflicts of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Society came through those and built a better world. Today there is still human conflict and misery, new technical advances such as artificial intelligence loom, while the planetary environment is in trouble. Now more than ever Darwin’s special skills and global scope can help. Our wonderful community can truly make the world better - in this fractious world, a still small voice of hope.



## A lot has happened in the last eight years:

**There has been much good news, and some heartbreakingly sad. There isn't space for everything, but here are a few of my highlights:**

- **Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations** in 2014 included the publication of the splendid *Darwin College* book; the election as Honorary Fellows of Greg Winter, Alan Ferscht and Chris Dobson, Masters of our three founding Colleges (Trinity, Gonville and Caius and St. John's) to highlight and express our gratitude; and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lecture Day.
- **I have met Darwinians round the world.** Our community is global. Friendships made in College, so often between people of very different backgrounds, last for lifetimes and across continents. It has been such a pleasure for me to meet and connect with so many of you from all generations, disciplines and nationalities.
- **The award of the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** to Richard Henderson for his development of cryo electron microscopy, and already long-remembered as our Wine Steward!
- **The 2020 Kavli Prize** in Astrophysics to Andy Fabian.
- **Top Honours were awarded to College Fellows** - A Damehood for Jane Francis and Knighthoods for Harry Bhadeshia and David MacKay, and a Swedish Knighthood for Larry Sherman.
- **Election as FRS** for Anne Ferguson-Smith, Chris Bishop, Karalyn Patterson, and Vladimir Markovic, an FBA for Martin Jones, and the award of an OBE to Emily Shuckburgh.
- **Election as Honorary Fellows for** alumni Robin Carrell, Nicky Padfield, Janet Rossant, Elizabeth Blackburn and Eric Maskin. Also, for non alumni Alan Fersht, Greg Winter, Chris Dobson, Olga Kennard, Simon Bittleston, Jane Goodall, Dame Sally Davies, Pippa Rogerson and Simon Keynes.
- **Appointments** for Darwin Fellows Emily Shuckburgh, as the first Director of Cambridge Zero; Jan Lowe as the Director of the LMB; and Chris Bishop as the Director of Microsoft Research Cambridge.
- **Founding Fellow, Abe Yoffe** celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2019.
- **The Darwin Lectures** have gone from strength to strength – packed out most weeks, and sometimes even overflowing! Many thanks to the people who put so much effort into making them possible and ensuring they are also freely available online.
- **Of course, the DarBar** – still Cambridge's best.
- **Rowing and Sport** - my family will make sure I don't forget the Boat Club and especially the DCBC 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2019! Well done to all the sports teams – plenty of highs and fun.

# Darwin College, the fight against COVID-19 and future Coronavirus Epidemics

**Joint Vice-Master Professor Jonathan Heeney and his colleagues are working flat out on two streams of research they are concurrently running to understand immune responses that can protect us from SARS-CoV-2, and to develop a vaccine to protect against future epidemics like COVID-19.**

Clinical trials of a vaccine developed by Jonathan Heeney and colleagues in his lab could begin late in 2021 helped by an award of £1.9 million from the UK government.

Professor Heeney who is head of the Laboratory of Viral Zoonotics at the University of Cambridge, and founder of DIOSynVax, a Cambridge University spin-out company, says:

*“Our approach involves 3D computer modelling of the SARS-CoV-2 virus’s structure. It uses information on the virus itself as well as its relatives – SARS, MERS and other coronaviruses carried by animals that threaten to ‘spill-over’ to humans again to cause future human epidemics.*

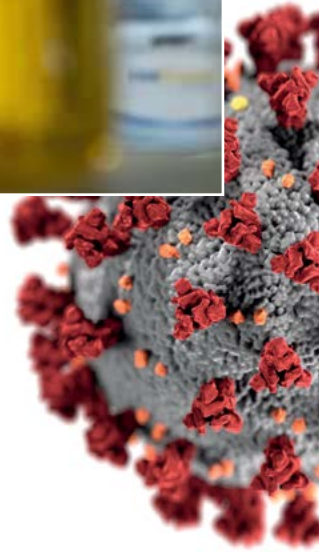
*We’re looking for chinks in its armour, crucial pieces of the virus that we can use to construct the vaccine to direct the immune response in the right direction, to the vulnerable weak spots of Coronaviruses. Ultimately, we aim to make a vaccine that will not only protect from SARS-CoV-2, but also other related coronaviruses.*

*Our strategy includes targeting those domains of the virus’s structure that are absolutely critical for docking with a cell, while avoiding the parts that could make things worse. What we end up with is a mimic, a synthetic part of the virus minus those non-essential elements that could trigger a bad immune response.”*

While most vaccines use RNA or crippled viruses such as adenoviruses to deliver their antigens, DIOSynVax’s is based around a stable DNA copy that makes modified virus proteins that are seen as targets by the immune system. These synthetic gene inserts can also be placed within a number of different vaccine delivery systems that other companies are using including RNA. Once an antigen is identified, the key piece of genetic code that the virus uses to produce the essential parts of its structure is inserted into a DNA parcel known as a vector. The body’s immune cells take up the vector, decodes the DIOS-vaccine antigen and use the information to program the rest of the immune system to produce antibodies and T-cells against it.

This DNA vector has already been shown to be safe and effective at stimulating an immune response against other pathogens and it is now being packaged into other vaccine delivery systems to demonstrate its versatility.

*“Our approach involves 3D computer modelling of the SARS-CoV-2 virus’s structure. It uses information on the virus itself as well as its relatives...”*



The vaccine in its DNA form can be freeze-dried as a powder which is heat stable, so does not need to be cold stored. Importantly, this makes the transport and storage of the vaccine straightforward – particularly important for distribution to low and middle-income countries where infrastructure is scarce, and populations are often remote.

The funding will allow the team to take the vaccine to clinical trial, which will take place at the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Southampton Clinical Research Facility at the University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust.

### **Immune Response Research**

Concurrently, Professor Heeny is also instrumental in the national effort by UK immunologists to understand the protective immune responses to SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. In August this year the consortium, which is a collaboration led by Professor Heeny and Professor Wilhelm Schwaeble at the University of Cambridge,

and Dr Helen Baxendale at the Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Trust, secured a grant of £1.5million for this important immune response research.

The funds allow the Humoral Immune Correlates of COVID-19 (HICC) Consortium to look at the role of antibodies in immunity to SARS-CoV-2 and characterise the antibody response in people who have mild or asymptomatic infection versus those who develop moderate or severe COVID-19 disease. The hope is to gain a better understanding of the differences between beneficial - or protective - antibody responses versus those that cause disease. This will help to determine why early indications suggest that people with stronger antibody responses may have had more life-threatening disease and what types of antibody responses are more effective in preventing severe infection.

**Both studies together should push forward our understanding of the virus and how to combat it. The grants provided will make this process happen at an accelerated rate and human trials of the vaccine will start next year.**

**Above:**  
Jonathan Heeny  
at the Laboratory  
of Viral Zoonotics in  
Cambridge.  
Photo Credit:  
Cambridge  
Independent

# Locked down in Darwin

Duncan Needham, Dean of Darwin, reflects on Lockdown in Darwin College

Like everyone else we first became aware of a new and deadly virus emanating from China in January. But COVID-19 became immediate for me as Dean and Senior Tutor of Darwin College when I arrived at work on 10 February. The Head Porter informed me that medics in hazardous material suits had been in overnight, attending to a student who had reported flu-like symptoms after returning from celebrating Lunar New Year in the Far East. Luckily, they later tested negative, however the news spread quickly through college and very soon there was a line of students at my door asking for updates and extensions to coursework deadlines (although not always in that order). College members often assume Senior Tutors know more than they are letting on. I usually try to follow Mark Twain's advice and allow this misapprehension to persist as long as possible by saying as little as possible. But this was an entirely new situation and one that required swift action.

Shortly afterwards Darwin formed a COVID-19 Action Team comprising of the Bursar, the Head of Domestic Operations, myself and the person who really does know what is going on in any College – the Head Porter. Our immediate concern was for the vulnerable members of our community – staff, fellows and students with underlying health conditions. Some staff went home and vulnerable students were offered self-contained accommodation. As it became increasingly likely that the University would close down, we encouraged students to return home if it was safe for them to do so. Unlike some colleges, however, we did not insist that our students leave (an impossibility for many postgraduates for whom Darwin *is* their home) and about half of those in College accommodation stayed throughout the lockdown. While the College was closed to all except resident members and key workers from 23<sup>rd</sup> March, we maintained a limited take-away catering service and opened a shop with basics for those still here.

“The news spread quickly through College and very soon there was a line of students at my door asking for updates and extensions to coursework deadlines...”

The month between the University closing and Easter weekend was intense. We had our first positive case on 18 March. With dozens of students isolating, either alone or as households, we deployed our network of Graduate Tutors and student supporters to provide food, medicines and moral support. The University also launched a data gathering exercise to identify who was still here (many of our postgraduate students live in private accommodation), who was planning to leave and when, and who was most vulnerable. We shall never know exactly how many cases we have had as community testing stopped in mid-March. But a number of our students were very sick indeed and looking after them remotely was challenging.

The counterpoint was that for several weeks, the historic centre of Cambridge was deserted. While slightly eerie, it was wonderful to have the place almost to oneself during the daily permitted perambulations. I noticed things that had passed unnoticed in my twelve years here: the statue of Thomas Gresham on Trinity Street; the peregrines nesting by the old Cambridge University Press building; that the beer festival was on when Google mapped the city. As the weather improved in April and the lockdown eased, officially or otherwise, the city centre became noticeably more 'town' than 'gown'. May Week passed without the riotous celebrations that normally mark



the end of Easter Term. Also missing were the tourists. Normally in summer, an invading army marches daily across the Backs to take up position on King's Parade. Absent of tourists, a colleague remarked how much she was reminded of the Cambridge of her childhood in the early 1960s.

At the time of writing we are nearly half way through Michaelmas Term. Many students had to spend two weeks in isolation after arriving from non-exempt countries and our DCSA Welfare Officers and student supporters did a brilliant job of making sure they were not truly isolated during that time. Despite concerns that the number of new arrivals would be significantly lower this year, postgraduate matriculations are up 2 per cent across the University with Darwin welcoming 4 per cent more new students compared to last year. Most of College is open again with safe social distancing restrictions: the Study Centre operates with a booking system and the Catering Manager has converted the Hall into an all-day café with screens between the tables. After serving as the location for arriving students to pick up their Welcome Packs and food boxes (if entering isolation), the Old Library is now a study space where online meetings can take

place. Most importantly, DarBar has reopened, having decanted to a large marquee on the back lawn.

COVID-19 is of course still with us. The University launched its asymptomatic testing programme at the start of term with weekly sampling of students organized in household 'pools'. The College Action Team continues to meet and plan for scenarios ranging from individual households entering isolation to a national lockdown. My own experience of the pandemic so far is that, while there are always a few individuals who will make a situation more difficult, our students have dealt with the emergency admirably. Notwithstanding the enormous personal challenges, I suspect the lack of distractions may have increased productivity for many; this is certainly the impression that comes from reading the supervision reports. What I can say for sure is that a critical moment in the well-being of the College came with the re-launching of the punts in July. You can shut down pretty much anything in a Cambridge college – the library, the catering, even the bar. But you take away the punts at your peril. As the weather takes a turn, however, the punts have now gone away again until the spring.

**Below:**  
*Duncan Needham talking to a member of the audience at a Darwin College Lecture Series Talk.*  
*Photo Credit: Sir Cam*



# The DCSA and the ‘New Normal’

**Chloé Kattar is the 2020–2021 President of the Darwin College Students Association (DCSA). She shares some of the challenges and successes the DCSA have faced in the last six months, in what is surely one of the most unsettling years the student body has had to cope with.**



**Above:**  
Chloé Kattar, DCSA President

“I will cherish forever these memories with them, as they were real friends to me at a very difficult time.”

In 2020 the DCSA have had to work in very unusual circumstances to say the least! We have re-thought and re-fashioned the ways in which Darwin students can stay connected and interact with each other. With dedication and hard work, we have been able to run a self-isolation supporters’ system, to design a Covid-19 student survey, come up with new and inventive ways to create entertainment opportunities and to pull off a double Freshers’ Week in October. The DCSA committee are real Darwin heroes!

When the first lockdown started in the UK in March 2020, I was still serving as the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the DCSA. I was living in the Malting House with a vibrant group of 11 other students from various parts of the world. Ten days into the lockdown I found myself with only 3 other flat mates, as the others had returned in a rush to France, Singapore, China or Mexico.

My remaining housemates - Zeynap, Daniel and Tom – and I, quickly found a balanced rhythm to our lockdown life, cooking together, coming up with a cleaning schedule (The Housekeeping Department had provided us with equipment to clean our rooms), going on walks around Cambridge and, most importantly, being there for each other during those four long and trying months. I will cherish forever these memories with them, as they were real friends to me at a very difficult time.

On top of the pandemic, my home country, Lebanon, where my family resides, was hit by a seemingly endless series of crises, among which an economic and financial collapse, the devaluation of the Lebanese Lira, the unofficial capital controls of banks and illegal restrictions on depositaries’ ability to withdraw money, as well as civil unrest and a state-sponsored counter-revolution. The disastrous explosion of the Beirut Port on August 4<sup>th</sup> that killed more than 220 and displaced more than 300,000 was the deadliest addition to this series of tragedies.



**Left:**  
The Marquee in the Garden; a large space for DarBar

As President, my first task was to create a new Black, Asian and Ethnic Minorities (BAME) Officer since the Executive Committee of the DCSA lacked effective representation for minorities. In doing so, we were trying to apply on a local level the lessons learnt from the global momentum of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Following the first months of lockdown, the new DCSA Executive Committee, which took office in full form in June 2020, launched a survey to assess the student experience during lockdown. We were aware that many Darwinians had faced hardships and we wanted to learn about their experiences in order to improve conditions for confinement in College. The survey was divided into themes such as accommodation, communication, welfare, etc., which were designed to help both the DCSA and the College identify areas where improvements could be made.

The results were generally positive, with students expressing that they felt safe and supported in Darwin College, especially because they could remain in College accommodation (in contrast to other colleges) and since hardship funds were easily awarded to students in need. The main complaint came from non-residents, who were unable to access College buildings and grounds as a result of

Despite the madness that seemed to have taken over the world in 2020, I felt safe in Darwin College. I can say with confidence today, after spending 4 years here, I proudly call it home.

The lockdown experience in Darwin and the amazing support I received from the students and College made me eager to give back even more to this amazing community. I knew that the next academic year would be like no other and I wanted to help the College family in this difficult period. I decided therefore to run for DCSA President in May 2020, and I was elected in the largest-ever DCSA elections as a total of 291 students casted their votes during the Lent Elections. This record voter turnout was made possible thanks to the support of the College: we were worried that students' interest in college life and DCSA matters would diminish with the pandemic as they were all scattered around the world, but Dean Needham generously offered to award a bottle of champagne (or non-alcoholic equivalent) to one lucky voter if we reached 150 votes!



The Top Three Winning Cakes from The Darwin Bake-Off. L to R:

A Galapagos Giant Tortoise rendered in chocolate and orange baked by Raymond Smith, a Gingerbread Darwin Bridge baked by Izzy Newsham, a Millionaires Shortbread inspired by the new John Bradfield building (with roses handpicked by Torsten Krude from the College gardens) baked by Maya Patel.

# Students and Research

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regulations. (For the second national lockdown, we have worked on ways to include students living in private accommodation or abroad in College life. This includes a welfare telephone campaign and Meet and Greet Zoom calls with College officers).

Most importantly, the DCSA has been key in implementing the Self-Isolation Supporter scheme. Once the pandemic broke out in the UK, the College rolled out this scheme to allow volunteers among the student cohorts to assist those in self-isolation by bringing them food and supplies. The Welfare Officers' efforts, whether Alice, Stefanie or Akash, were utterly crucial in making this a success: they regularly paired together one isolating student with a student supporter – especially early in the new term when many new international students arrived from non-exempt countries – and acted as the contact point between students in quarantine, their supporters and the College. Their dedication was remarkable. They also helped pack the belongings of many students who had to leave in a rush when the lockdown first started.

The next big challenge was of course Freshers' Week. Given the ever-evolving regulations of the UK government, the DCSA had to adapt and come up with two parallel events schedules. To cater for the needs of those freshers who had to isolate on arrival, we offered two Freshers' calendars: one for in-person events and one for online events on Zoom. Depending on their situation, students could of course mix online and in-person events! This included, for instance, a virtual Darwin Bake-Off, where students entered a baking competition and then sent photos of their cakes to the Darwin Kitchen which chose a couple of winners!

We also organised digital entertainment such as a Guided Conversation Tour, in which new students were partnered up with a fellow Darwinian and provided with a conversation guide. Or the famous Speedy Chat Nights, where students were put in breakout rooms for several minutes at a time to chat with other Darwinians.

Brilliantly, our virtual Darwin Quiz featured questions written by our very own University Challenge team. In short, we tried to offer virtual equivalents of the traditional events and got inventive when we couldn't!

Our in-person events involved a lot of preparation to make sure that we were conducting freshers' activities in a safe manner and according to governmental rules. The DCSA worked closely with the Domestic Operations and Catering Departments on a risk assessment form that was signed by all hosts of Freshers' events. Officers and presidents of societies were advised to ensure that their events were Covid-19 secure. This was especially important for events happening in the Marquee, which the College installed in the garden during Michealmas Term to welcome new students and host such events.

The marquee could only welcome a limited number of people at once, and the DCSA prepared seating plans that applied social distancing rules to big events such as the Open Mic.

The Covid era brought yet another major change to college life: it introduced the household concept. Many of our activities, such as the Grantchester walks and Pizza Night, were offered only on a household basis. The Punt Club, for instance, issued an occupancy rule that allowed up to two different households per punt.

This new configuration meant that students had to socialise in their respective households. So we launched the 'Get to Know your Household' campaign, to encourage new students to reach out to the other students in their new homes, find out who belonged to their household, create WhatsApp groups and nominate a household representative who, for instance, would pick up the pizzas for everyone from the kitchen on Pizza Night!

*"In short, we tried to offer virtual equivalents of the traditional events and got inventive when we couldn't!"*



**Above:**

*The winners of the Student Bake-Off Competition receive their prizes. From Left to Right: Raymond Smith, Maya Patel and Izzy Newsham*

As I write lockdown is upon us again, and we are again thinking of new ways to get students active and engaged in college life. For the Michealmas DCSA General Meeting on Zoom we will be delivering food and beverages to all households so that they can partake in important discussions from the comfort of their rooms. Because total, partial or short lockdowns might become an inherent part of our lives, the DCSA is also planning to redistribute part of its budget along household lines, to help students stay entertained in the weeks when they won't be able to meet at their sports clubs and societies.

Looking forward, our international students may not be able to travel home because of travel restrictions at the end of this term. So, planning is now focused on the Christmas season.

The key DCSA aim this year is to make students feel at home in Darwin no matter what!

*“As I write lockdown is upon us again, and we are again thinking of new ways to get students active and engaged in college life.”*

# An Insight into what you think about Darwin

**In late 2019 the University carried out an extensive survey to all Cambridge alumni. The questionnaire asked about student experience and alumni engagement with both the University and Colleges. 134,000 Cambridge degree holders were asked to participate, including all contactable Darwin alumni.**

The results from Darwin alumni were both illuminating and gratifying. About 650 Darwinians responded to the survey and key results, shown as percentages, are:

## Which do you identify most closely with...



The University of Cambridge as a whole	<b>46</b>
Your college	<b>35</b>
Your department	<b>18</b>
A student club or society	<b>1</b>

Overall Cambridge alumni are generally more likely to identify most closely with their College than with the University as a whole – but this differs by degree type. Alumni who attended two Cambridge Colleges are more likely to identify most closely with their College than the University as whole. However, postgraduate alumni are more likely to identify most closely with the University of Cambridge rather than their College. The latter point is very salient for Darwin and is something that the College is very aware of; given this it is extremely heartening that 35% of respondents identify most closely with Darwin.

## Which of these statements best describes how Cambridge fits in your life today? Cambridge is...



One of most important affiliations	<b>50</b>
Important, but others more important	<b>43</b>
Not important	<b>7</b>

Most alumni have very favourable feelings about both their student experience at Cambridge and the institution today. For many alumni, Cambridge and their College are two of the most important affiliations in their life. On most of the measures for which there is comparative data, Cambridge compares very favourably with 16 benchmark institutions. Indeed, 60% of Darwin responders said they would actively recommend Darwin to prospective students.

## Which Cambridge alumni benefits are most important to you?

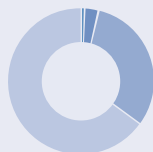
Access to Colleges	<b>53</b>
College accommodation	<b>46</b>
E-databases and journals	<b>44</b>
University Library	<b>44</b>
Email for life	<b>42</b>
Alumni groups and societies	<b>33</b>
College dining	<b>30</b>
Discounts at CUP bookshop	<b>23</b>
University Centre	<b>18</b>
Discounts on short courses	<b>18</b>
Alumni Travel Programme	<b>14</b>
Discounts at retail and hospitality	<b>12</b>
Discounts on Executive Education	<b>10</b>
University clothing and merchandise	<b>9</b>
Conference bookings in College	<b>8</b>
University Careers Service	<b>7</b>
College clothing and merchandise	<b>6</b>
None of the above	<b>5</b>
University Sports Centre	<b>2</b>

Access to Colleges, College accommodation, e-databases and journals, to the University Library and (among recent graduates, continuing access to the University Careers Service) are the benefits that respondents reported as the most important alumni benefits – followed by email for life and membership of alumni groups and societies. It is important to note the interest in benefits offered at both the College and University levels, and the value this offers to you, our alumni. University alumni benefits and are listed on the University website. For College benefits please contact the Darwin Alumni and Development Office.

### Which of the following have you made a financial contribution to in the past five years?

The University	5
A college	26
A department	2
Other Cambridge institution	4
None of the above	70

### Which have you included in your Will or estate plans

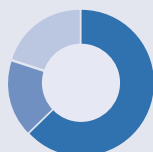


The University	1
A college	3
Neither	31
Not made Will plans yet	65

### Which of the following considerations weigh most when you are deciding whether or not to give to the University and Colleges of Cambridge?

Can count on wealthier alumni	42
Less impact	36
Not a charity	33
Give where more involved	31
Tuition fees	20
Don't know where donations go	11
Don't know how	6
Give to undergrad	5
Not been asked	4
Not appreciated	3
Non-essential programmes	2

### Apart from Cambridge, do you give money on a regular basis to any charitable or not-for-profit organisations?



Yes	63
No	17
Prefer not to say	20

Darwin alumni are somewhat more likely to express interest in the College's fundraising priorities than the University campaign priorities. The most potent deterrents to giving are that non-donors feel their money has greater impact on other organisations, feel Cambridge can always count on its wealthier alumni to provide adequate support, don't think of Cambridge as a charity like other things they give to, and prefer to give to organisations they are more personally involved with.

For the most part, alumni are *not* deterred from giving by financial hardship or an aversion to philanthropy: 63% of alumni say they give money "on a regular basis" to other charitable or not-for-profit organisations. Our challenge is to make Darwin a higher priority for more alumni to give to our key projects (currently student support and hardship relief).

For the first time, alumni were asked about including College or the University in their will. 3% of Darwin alumni said that they have already included the College in their will, while of those that had written wills 31% said they hadn't included Darwin or the University as beneficiaries.

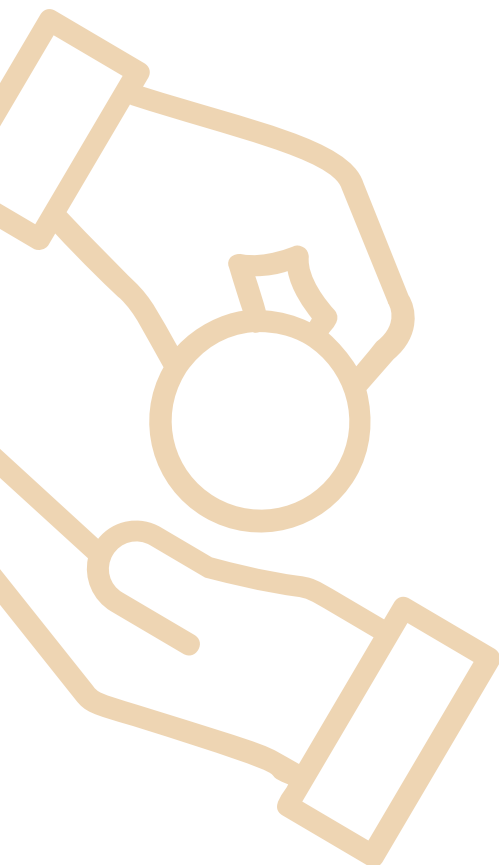
As a post graduate College, it is clear that our alumni members feel a greater affinity to their undergraduate institution than to Darwin. After all, many study for just a year at College or those studying for a PhD spend most time in their Department and possibly never visit Darwin beyond the first week. This throws up the perennial challenge of how to help students enjoy what Darwin has to offer, but also subsequently how to keep alumni engaged and involved. At this time especially we are concerned about how to engage alumni and friends with Darwin. Although the results from the University survey are generally encouraging for the College, it is clear that we have to work on the quality of the student experience, alumni communications, alumni engagement and development to build and sustain strong relationships with students and alumni.

**If you would like a fuller version of the Darwin specific responses to the University Survey, please email [development@darwin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@darwin.cam.ac.uk).**

# Fundraising in a Pandemic



“So we are immensely grateful for all donations, large or small – and they really do all make a difference!”



**W**hat started as a conventional year has turned out to be anything but that. There is plenty elsewhere in this *Darwinian* about the impact of the pandemic on College life for students; in terms of alumni activities, we have had to move all our events online for the time being.

2020 has had many challenges, as well as more conventional comings and goings. We have said a huge thank you to outgoing Master, Mary Fowler, as well as welcoming her successor Mike Rands who joined in October. Sadly, several long-serving Fellows passed away this year, and we mourn the loss of Jennifer Clack, Richard King, Hugh Mellor, Paul Ries, and Donald West.

In terms of fundraising, we have had a successful year, with £1.2 million raised 2019–2020. To all our donors, who have given at all levels and in many ways: thank you. Your support of College whether for studentships, student hardship, for college activities, or for buildings and facilities, is very much appreciated!

As reported on p16, the University sent out a survey to all Cambridge alumni at the end of last year. Thank you to Darwinians who completed it; your comments are appreciated and help us to orient our alumni relations and development programmes so that they have ever-

increasing relevance to all alumni, whatever your age or whichever part of the world you live in.

Some of the feedback on fundraising was interesting, and I'd like to take a moment to explain a few common thoughts about College fundraising. Some reactions indicated that the College should be able to count on support from its wealthiest alumni and that, by implication, smaller donations aren't needed. Now, it's true that large donations can be transformational to the College as a whole – but that is not to say that a smaller gift cannot make an enormous difference to an individual student. Take, for example a donation of £100 (£125 with Gift Aid) to the Student Hardship Fund – which might, for example, be a grant to an individual student to enable them to travel home at short notice, or which might help with the purchase of a new laptop. And small donations can stack up rather quickly; for example, if 100 individuals gave £50 plus Gift Aid, we could create a new 1-year Master's studentship.

So we are immensely grateful for all donations, large or small – and they really do all make a difference!

Looking ahead, I hope that we are able to resume 'in person' alumni events before too long, but I also think that, given Darwin's widely-dispersed alumni community, 'online' gatherings are likely to endure alongside 'in person' events even when we can be together again.

I hope that you will consider watching some, or all, of the 2021 Darwin Lecture Series, which will be broadcast live online and be available to watch afterwards on our YouTube channel.

To all our alumni and friends who have supported us, or are considering supporting us in the future – thank you.

**Samuel Venn,**  
**Development Director**

## The Future of College Events

One of the main things that the Development Team have missed (more than you might imagine) in recent times is the opportunity to organise and host events for you, our alumni.

In the pre-COVID era, we would have a full programme of alumni events in College and around the globe. In fact, in March, when the UK went into lockdown, we were looking forward to hosting a full hall of alumni for our Reunion Dinner, which was to happen in April. Groups of alumni had banded together to come back to Darwin from across the world, paid for travel and accommodation, and were looking forward to catching up in person at a formal in Darwin - only to have the event cancelled! We were so disappointed when we had no option but to cancel this and all following events. Many alumni have told us they were too.

With no sign of being able to arrange 'in-person' events for the foreseeable future, we, along with most other institutions, have dabbled in digital events. In September, Mary Fowler and our Development Director held Zoom events in the US, Canada, the UK, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand. These were a way for Mary, as out-going Master, to say farewell to the alumni she had enjoyed meeting during her tenure.

Our new Master, Mike Rands, is likewise looking forward to introducing himself to alumni virtually.

In late October, the Alumni Office sent out a survey to ascertain whether on-line events were a way we could fill the gap before we can meet in person again. The good news is that there is strong support for running events on digital platforms. We asked about the type of events you would like to attend, and the headline results suggest that events with a research talk or lecture from an alumnus, Fellow or student was preferred. Two thirds of respondents were willing to give a presentation. Alumni in the UK and North America were most keen to attend Zoom events, closely followed by the Far East and mainland Europe.

Thus encouraged, we plan to fill the in-person events void with a series of on-line events which will feature a speaker and provide a chance for alumni to mix with each other afterwards. The Alumni and Development Office will invite you to events based on which time-zone you live in (so, hopefully, anti-social times will be avoided). Invitations will be sent by email; if you think that we don't have your details, please drop us a line: [alumni.office@darwin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni.office@darwin.cam.ac.uk).

## Darwin College Lecture Series 2021 'Blood'

The 2021 Darwin College Lecture Series is going ahead, and the good news is that you can access the lectures wherever you are in the world! The lectures will be live streamed and also recorded.

There are some fantastic speakers, experts in their fields who have been lined up to speak to you:



**Darwin College Lecture Series**  
**Blood**  
**2021**

Fridays at 5.30pm  
[www.darwin.cam.ac.uk/lectures](http://www.darwin.cam.ac.uk/lectures)

22 Jan	<b>Battle Blood</b> Claire Roddie, UCL
29 Jan	<b>Transitional Bleeding in Early Modern England</b> Sara Read, Loughborough University
05 Feb	<b>Blood in Motion: The Physics of Blood Flow</b> Tim Pedley, University of Cambridge
12 Feb	<b>Dracula, Vampires and the New Woman</b> Carol Senf, Georgia Institute of Technology
19 Feb	<b>Bloodlines of the British</b> Walter Bodmer, University of Oxford
26 Feb	<b>Blood Villains and Heroes</b> Rose George, Journalist
05 Mar	<b>Cold Blood</b> Stuart Egginton, University of Leeds
12 Mar	<b>Blood Sculptures</b> Marc Quinn, Artist

# A Thank You to our 2019 and 2020 Telephone Campaign Donors



In September 2019 we ran our telephone fundraising campaign using student callers for the first time in many years. We did so with great trepidation as we had previously struggled to recruit students to do this particularly important work; although keen to help, many students found they could not fit the fundraising in around their research.

Our answer to this problem was always second-best, but better than nothing. We used an agency whose callers rang alumni on our behalf. Phoning from Bristol, they did a particularly good job for us, raising funds when we could not.

However, we always knew that employing our students would be our best choice. Not only does it give temporary employment for Darwin students, it also means that students and alumni can be linked together by subject or interests and thereby have extremely productive conversation for both parties. Obviously, the students are also employed to raise funds, but this is often a nice 'side effect' rather than an absolute priority!

After many false starts, in September last year, we had assembled in the Old Library a talented group of students to call you, our alumni to raise funds for Studentships. The callers were a microcosm of our beloved Darwin community – from every corner of the Earth and from widely differing backgrounds.

### **Move on one year and the 2020 telephone campaign raised some very unexpected issues – all COVID related.**

2020 has been a year like no other. Indeed, it was a difficult decision to know whether we should actively fundraise with so much uncertainty in the world. However, our students' needs are greater than they have ever been, so many were and are struggling with the extra costs of extending their research after nearly a term of being in isolation. In addition, we must continue to finance student programmes for those whose background makes it difficult to study at Cambridge.

So, we ran a telephone campaign in September 2020, but it was in a very new and innovative format. Our callers weren't in the Old Library enjoying the team spirit that is so wonderful to see amongst our students. Instead, each caller, still completely supported by the College, was phoning from their student accommodation or home. This was a unique way to run a fundraising campaign and thank you to all who spoke to them.

**In both 2019 and 2020 the callers thoroughly enjoyed the experience, as did many of the alumni they called. Indeed thank you to those who spoke to our callers, they really gained from every call, as you can see from their quotes below. A double thank you to those who also donated, the College, and especially the student body, are extremely grateful.**

**Through your generosity we funded three PhD studentships in 2019. Two began in October this year and one will start in October 2021. The good news is that a further two studentships were funded this year and we raised funds to help students suffering hardship. This means that students who could not ordinarily afford to study for an advanced degree at Cambridge will now be able to do so.**

*"Chatting to alumni was really helpful and I had some amazing conversations with some incredible people."*

*"I was self-funded, and therefore really appreciate the need for studentships and funding opportunities for students. I also needed the money due to not having a job lined up after submitting my dissertation."*

*"Harder than expected! But a great challenge to get good conversations and rewarding to see the Fund increasing. Also, a great experience to see/hear about the huge diversity in people's futures after Darwin."*

*"I learned a lot about myself and about how fundraising actually works."*

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# Darwin Community

## Appointments and Awards

Congratulations to the Fellows, alumni and students listed below who have been acknowledged with awards or significant appointments over the last few months:

### Fellows:

**Professor Christopher Bishop** is a Microsoft Technical Fellow and Laboratory Director of the Microsoft Research Lab in Cambridge. He is also Professor of Computer Science at the University of Edinburgh, and a Fellow of Darwin College. He is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and a Fellow of the Royal Society. In April he was appointed to the **Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology**.

**Professor Andy Fabian** is an Emeritus Fellow and former Vice-Master of Darwin College. He has been awarded the **2020 Kavli Prize in Astrophysics**, one of the world's most prestigious science prizes. The Prize was awarded for his pioneering research and persistence in pursuing the mystery of how black holes influence their surrounding galaxies on both large and small scales.

**Dr Georgios Hadjidemetriou** is a Darwin Postdoctoral Research Associate; he is the 2020 winner of the **Cambridge Institute for Manufacturing Postdoctoral Awards for Research Excellence**. Georgios is currently working on the SAFEWAY project – A GIS-based infrastructure management system for optimised response to extreme events on terrestrial transport networks which aims to address the ability of transport systems to function during challenging circumstances and quickly recover to acceptable levels of service after extreme events.

### Alumni:

**Dr Sudarsanam Babu** is an alumnus of Darwin (1988, Materials Science), and was supervised by Darwin Fellow, Professor Sir Harry Bhadeshia. He has been appointed to a key US Administration post. The announcement was made by the White House on 20 April 2020. Dr Babu, of Tennessee, has been made a **Member of the National Science Board** for a six-year term.

**Dr Marzia Munafò** is an alumna of Darwin (2016, Medical Sciences) and has been awarded the **Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute Graduate Student Thesis Prize**. During her studies, she investigated how piRNAs are produced and how they protect the genome from harm, using the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster* as a model organism. This work advances our understanding of how the cells respond to external threats and how they evolve novel molecular functions.

**Dr Cecily Morrison** is an alumna of Darwin (2006, Computer Science) and has been appointed **MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to inclusive design**. Dr Morrison is a principal researcher at the Microsoft Research Lab in Cambridge.

### Students:

**Mr Daniel Kottmann** is a PhD student at Darwin College and the Department of Medicine. He has received an **Outstanding Contribution to Education Award** from the Cambridge University Centre for Teaching and Learning. His team was highly commended in the Innovation Practice category for their work with the Cambridge MedTech Foundation, where Daniel substantially contributed to develop the Innovation Programme, an educational programme to introduce students to medical device development.



**Legacies:**  
Abiding Gifts that Live On

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“A Cambridge Education is truly priceless and I leave a legacy to Darwin in the fervent hope that it will open up this unique opportunity to as many others as is possible.”

Anna Dyer (Darwin, 2000)

Some alumni tell us that their financial commitments make it difficult to give to the College in their lifetime – but that they would be very happy to include the College in their Will. Arranging to leave a legacy is a straightforward way to donate to the College without current financial security being affected in any way.

**Thank you** if you have already included Darwin in your Will. Indeed, many alumni tell us when the College has been listed as a beneficiary and in return, we offer our heartfelt thanks and exclusive access to College events through the 1885 Legator Society.

In recent years, the College has gratefully received legacy donations from the estates of alumni and supporters that have funded many diverse activities including - Student Scholarships, Support in Research and Training, the Darwin Lecture Series and general College funds.

**In fact, Professor Hugh Mellor, a former Fellow of Darwin, whose obituary you can find in this newsletter, has left a generous legacy to the College funding Philosophy Studentships. It was a decision that he was pleased to inform the College of some years ago: this meant that we could personally thank him, and he had the knowledge that his bequest would help students attending Darwin to flourish in his specialism, while enjoying the unique academic atmosphere of the College.**

*Anna Dyer similarly said: “Darwin – and the wider University - gave me the opportunity to converse with some of the greatest minds in many fields; make life-long friends from around the globe; discover strengths I never knew I possessed and changed my future for the better.”*

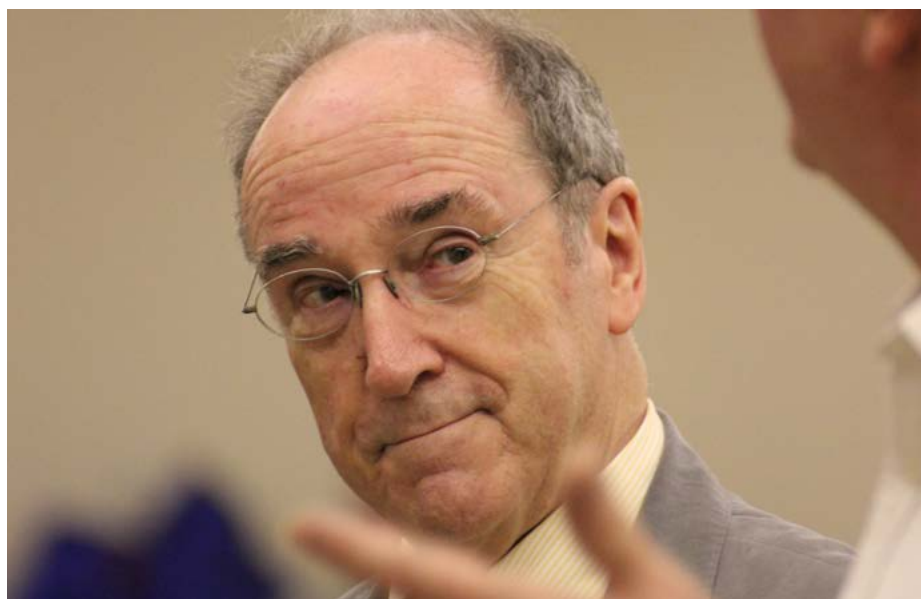
We encourage anyone interested in donating this way to talk it through in confidence with the Development Director and with a Solicitor. The College has a short booklet giving suggested wording which might be helpful, it can be found on our website, or you can contact the Development Office to have a copy posted to you.

**Photos:**  
Andrzej Bugajski



## Professor D.H. ('Hugh') Mellor ScD

(1938–2020)



**D**.H. Mellor (known to his friends as 'Hugh') died in Addenbrooke's Hospital on 22<sup>nd</sup> June from non-Hodgkinson's lymphoma – an illness which he had borne for some years with stoic good humour.

Hugh enjoyed (in every sense) a distinguished academic career as a philosopher. It used to surprise people that his first degree was in Chemical Engineering. (The enduring effect of this on his academic standing was that, when he graduated with a prestigious Higher Doctorate from the University in 1990, he was entitled to an 'Sc.D.' rather than the more appropriate 'Litt.D' – he took the former simply out of devilment).

Following his Chemical Engineering degree, he studied for an M.Sc. in Minnesota in the course of which he discovered: Philosophy.

He returned to Cambridge to do a PhD in the Philosophy of Science which was awarded in 1968. He joined the Philosophy Faculty as a lecturer, worked his way up the ranks, and became Professor in 1986. He retired in 1999. After that, he served as a University Pro-Vice Chancellor from 2000 to 2001, when he was responsible for setting up The Centre for Research in the Arts,

Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH) – now one of the jewels in Cambridge's crown. He held many honours, becoming a Fellow of the British Academy in 1983 – a position from which he resigned in 2008 because he felt that he was not able to keep completely on top of advances in the discipline (how many FBAs do that?). As we shall see, resigning was something of a trope with Hugh.

Hugh saw himself, with justice, as following in a succession of Cambridge philosophers, starting with Frank Ramsey (1903-1930) and followed by the likes of Richard Braithwaite (1900-1990), in doing 'serious metaphysics'. He made seminal contributions to a range of topics. The most sustained of these were in the philosophy of probability and on the philosophy of time, where his work remains essential reading. In addition, he made important contributions to thinking about the mind, causation, natural kinds, properties, and a host of other issues. He was a brilliant teacher whose supervising style matched his general approach; to take the work very seriously, but life a great deal less so. His graduate students, many of whom now hold positions in universities around the world, had drilled into them his own exceptionally high standards, intolerance of academic posturing, and

impatience with cant. Supervisions were intellectually challenging and seldom contemplative experiences. Even thirty years later, I would still feel a wave of cold fear when ringing the bell on visits to his house in Orchard Street, fearing that Hugh might have come across something I had written which he felt was not quite up to snuff.

Hugh had been a Fellow of Pembroke but resigned in a row over the appointment of a new Master, and joined Darwin in 1971. The College was much the richer for his presence. He brought his great enthusiasm for the theatre (he was an accomplished amateur actor) and established a keen group of thespians. He organised for the lights to be installed in the Dining Hall which allowed it to be transformed into a venue for a range of plays and performances. He was fiercely loyal to the College and very generous with his time. He was particularly keen to help anyone, no matter how junior, who had a serious interest in philosophy. An enquiring email might result in an invitation to Orchard Street, to lunch in the Free Press (his local), or to Blacks (his rather raffish Soho club) for a long conversation followed – perhaps – by a visit to the theatre. He was also generous with his money. He provided the means for bursaries to enable many students, who would not otherwise have been able, to come to Darwin and study Philosophy.

Hugh's time in the College was not without controversy. In 1992 he, with two colleagues, stood in the Senate House to declare 'non placet' (an expression of dissent) to force a vote on whether to give the French philosopher, Jacques Derrida, an honorary degree. It is difficult to imagine any two philosophers whose styles were more antithetical. The proposal to award the degree was eventually voted through but not before Hugh had made his point. The controversy, which I don't think Hugh much enjoyed, made for some uncomfortable conversations in the formal halls at which he was a regular attendee.

## Mr Richard King CBE (1929–2020)

A year earlier, he had opposed Darwin accepting money for the Perrott-Warrwick Fellowship in Parapsychology. When it was put to him, in a television interview, that the College should accept the money as 'work on parapsychology was not illegal', he replied, rather characteristically, that 'neither was prostitution, yet he would not expect the College to open a brothel'. Hugh was again on the losing side, and the Fellowship was held with distinction by Nicholas Humphrey.

Hugh resigned for a third time in 2005, on this occasion from Darwin, in a row about Fellowships. Having said that, it did not seem much to dent his enthusiasm for 'the old Coll', as he used to refer to what was his Cambridge home. This should not have been a surprise; Darwin is academic, serious, friendly, welcoming and without snobbery or pretention – all things that Hugh embodied and appreciated. He greatly enjoyed the College's growing success – although I am sure a greater attention to provision for the theatre in the new buildings would have been welcome. The bulk of his estate, including the proceeds of the sale of the Orchard Street house, have been left to boost the bursaries for Philosophy in Darwin. Hugh brought both his distinction and his distinctive personality to Darwin. Both have rubbed off on the College, to its lasting benefit.

**Derek Matravers**  
Darwin alumnus and Senior Member

**The College is actively raising donations for the Philosophy Fund and also for other bursaries. For more information or to donate to any of our bursaries please contact the Development Office on [development@darwin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@darwin.cam.ac.uk). Alternatively, please complete the enclosed donation form (ticking 'Studentships', annotate with 'Philosophy Fund' if you would like your donation directed there).**



**R**ichard King, a highly respected Fellow of the College, died on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2020. Although not an academic, he had been elected to a Fellowship to fulfil a special need. It was recognised among the Graduate Membership that there were those who were wondering whether their future should be to remain in academia or to venture out into the wider world of industry. Although many of the existing Fellows at the time had some links with the commercial world this was mainly in an advisory capacity. What was needed was someone of eminence with a direct knowledge of the intellectual and career challenges that a change in direction could bring. Richard's background and achievements made him the obvious choice as a source of this help and guidance.

Richard was a Cambridge boy having been brought up in the Garden House Hotel which was owned by one of his uncles. His main schooling was at the Perse. He left school at 18 but not before he became one of only four nationally, who had won an English-Speaking Union Travelling Scholarship to the United States. This visit had included an audience, whilst still in school uniform,

with President Truman in the Oval Office. He even listened to the President playing the piano. The meeting was to have a lasting impression on Richard who retained a deep respect for Truman and his style of leadership, as well as for the United States in general.

These were the days of National Service and he was drafted into the army. For some reason he refused the chance of a commission but quickly rose in rank to Staff Sergeant, interestingly a rank he had previously held in the school OTC. He would joke that this had developed his ability to shout! Although he had already been offered a provisional place at Gonville and Caius to study Economics and Geography this was dependant on him passing a Latin exam which he unaccountably failed. Rather than being devastated by this he recognised it had the potential of leading him to exciting new opportunities. He joined the Cambridge based electronics firm Pye as a management trainee and ended up as its Sales and Marketing Director. The Pye group then merged with the Dutch based company Philips and after a period in Australia he was sent to study at the Harvard Business School on an Advanced Management Programme. He claimed

he had never been made to work so hard in his life! It also cemented his respect for the United States and its dynamic approach. On his return to the UK he was appointed to run the Broadcasting Equipment business for Philips worldwide.

The time came for him to make a go of it on his own. Electronics and its technical potentials had excited him from childhood, and he created the innovative and commercially highly successful Cambridge Electronic Industries PLC which he ran as CEO for 10 years. He was made a CBE for his services to electronics. Richard had always promised himself he would retire at 60, which he did, 'in order to do other things'. He became deeply involved in the NHS and was Deputy Chairman of Addenbrooke's Hospital for 10 years. He was an enthusiastic Governor of Anglia Polytechnic University, now Anglia Ruskin, during its formative years as well as the Norwich University of the Arts. Importantly he also became directly associated with what has become known as 'Early Stage Development Industries'. A notable occasion was when at a gathering attended by the then Prime-Minister, Margaret Thatcher, she overheard Richard declaiming 'with all the brains in Cambridge, Industry should be talking to them'. During the 1990s he came across three exceedingly bright PhD students who wanted to do something on their own but did not know how to start. After a number of meetings in a Cambridge pub and many glasses of beer a business plan emerged involving sensing devices and the handling of algorithms. Under Richard's guidance a small company 'Sentec Ltd' was set up. With Richard as Chairman a bank loan was raised. At first the going was difficult but eventually, after much hard work the company became financially viable and after 5 years Richard was able to step down. With success it became inevitable that the now vibrant 'early

stage development enterprise' would eventually be bought out by a bigger concern but it had illustrated that academically derived expertise and management acumen could achieve great things if they could work together sympathetically. Sentec was just one of a number of Directorships that he held in the 1990s during this 'retirement'.

It was interesting to work together with Richard on various Darwin College committees and to observe the same skills employed. He was a great thinker and generally avoided the general 'natter' that can dominate such discussions if one is not careful. At the appropriate time he would often come up with the succinct comment that indicated a clear and rational way forward. He took a keen interest in the way Darwin should develop now that it had become firmly established on the Cambridge University scene. In his 80s, as an Emeritus Fellow, he became a key member of the Development Committee that discussed this evolution of the College and, just as crucially, realistic ways that the necessary finance might be obtained. He also believed firmly in the value of the annual Darwin Lecture Series; no doubt because of the multi-disciplinary emphasis these shed on a complete understanding of complex topics.

In many ways Richard displayed what Darwin College is all about. The old Entertaining Room was renamed some years ago as *The Richard King Room* and will be a lasting memorial to his name, his sustained and very substantial benefaction to the College, and to the man.

**RG Whitehead  
Emeritus Fellow**

## Professor Jennifer Clack FRS (1947–2020)



In March the College was saddened by the death of Professor Jenny Clack, Darwin College Fellow from 1997 and Emeritus Fellow from 2015. She died after being unwell for some time.

Professor Clack was one of the world's most distinguished vertebrate palaeontologists, who had made a major contribution to evolutionary biology through her work on the evolution from fish to tetrapods.

She authored or co-authored more than 120 research papers as well as numerous popular articles and book reviews. The significance of her work resulted in 15 of her research papers being published in the journal 'Nature'. Her book, 'Gaining Ground, The Origin and Evolution of Tetrapods' (2002), summarises the results of research on early tetrapods over the previous 25 years.

She studied in Newcastle before moving to Cambridge as Assistant Curator in the University Museum of Zoology. She later became a Professor and Curator of Vertebrate Palaeontology in the Department of Zoology in Cambridge and was elected a Fellow of Darwin College in 1997. Her work won her renown from many quarters, and she received several honorary degrees and medals. She became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2009.

## Professor Donald West LittD

(1924–2020)



**P**rofessor Donald West trained as a psychiatrist, and later became a criminologist, and published in the fields of Criminology, Parapsychology, and Psychology. His early work led to the decriminalisation of homosexuality. He was one of the earliest Darwin Fellows, becoming a Fellow in 1967.

Born in Liverpool, Professor West studied medicine at Liverpool University. Here he began to read works on psychology and psychoanalysis, and qualified as a doctor in 1947. In 1951 he started training in psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital under Sir Aubrey Lewis, Frederick Kraupl-Taylor, and Peter Scott, a leading forensic psychiatrist.

In 1955 his book *Homosexuality* was published; a work he personally regarded as his most important. It was written as a detached review of the factual evidence – anthropological, statistical and psychological - and made a powerful, rational case in the circumstances of the time for tolerance and understanding of a stigmatised and censured community. In later life he reflected on how important the book had been for many gay people in his generation who had told him how comforting it had been in their early days to read something that confirmed their normality.

In 1960 Donald was appointed as an Assistant Director of Research at the newly established Institute of Criminology at Cambridge, presided over by Sir Leon Radzinowicz, and was later promoted to a professorship in Clinical Criminology.

In 1961 he started the best known of his contributions to criminological research, the Cambridge longitudinal study in delinquent development. He was joined in 1969 by his colleague David Farrington, and their project became one of the major, continuing, prospective longitudinal studies internationally in the field of developmental criminology.

Donald continued to teach and conduct research on sexuality and offending, publishing *Sexual Crimes and Confrontations* in 1987, and (with Buz de Villiers) *Male Prostitution* in 1992.

His last book was a candid autobiography, *Gay Life, Straight Work*, in 2012, in which he commented on the remarkable transformation in official attitudes towards homosexuality in the UK in his lifetime. In it he described the freedom that had eventually become possible for him. He will be remembered for his contributions to criminology, but his lasting legacy may well be for furthering the cause of gay rights where none existed.

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## Dr Paul Ries

(1932–2020)

Emeritus Fellow, Dr Paul Ries, died on Monday 9 November 2020 at his home.

Paul was elected as a Fellow in 1973, was College Secretary from 1977–1990, and was a University Lecturer in Scandinavian Studies.

Paul is survived by his widow, Charlotte. It was Paul's wish that no memorial service be held or tribute made.

## Mr Donald Nicolson

(1925–2020)



**D**onald Nicolson died in March 2020 aged 94. There are few people who would start a master's degree after retirement, he was one of the exceptions. An extremely popular member of College who studied Classics (matriculating at Darwin in 1984); he was a true intellectual who generously shared his love for many subjects.

Donald is remembered for his wonderful sense of fun and love of life. Many Darwinians will remember him on the dance floor, no one was ever short of a dance partner at the Darwin bop! He also loved to punt - not only did he write a guide to punting; he was still on the river well into his 80s.

A talented book binder he restored many texts which can still be seen in the Darwin Study Centre. Donald's meticulous debates, discussions and mischievous smile are much missed by all Darwinians who remember him.



**Editors:**

Sophia Smith, John Dix, Samuel Venn, Eleanor Collingwood

The editors especially welcome short articles, pictures and news from all our alumni but particularly those overseas.

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