



# THE DARWINIAN



## Darwin 2001/2 – Growth and Diversity

Darwin College has received an unprecedented number of applications for this academic year. This is in spite of looming concerns about how changes in university funding mechanisms may hit Cambridge colleges – especially the graduate colleges. There were 563 applicants for the Michaelmas Term – a 38% rise. The proportion actually taking up their offers was also high which has created the largest graduate membership ever.

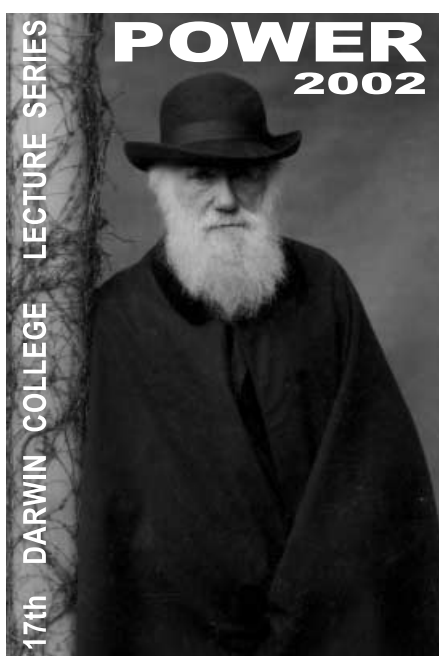
The art of judging how many places to offer is akin to the problems faced by the airline industry with a high proportion of no shows faced by

all colleges (often due to candidates' failure to raise the necessary funding). Unlike the airlines, colleges cannot offer a night in a hotel or an upgrade to business class if students will come back next year! So space has been found for all that do succeed in raising their funding – and the college thrives.

Here are some statistics for the year 2001/2: 60% of the new students are from overseas (17% from the EU). Students come from 71 different countries compared to 64 last year. Top of the league table (numerically speaking) are UK 227, USA 37, Germany 34, Greece 21 and Canada with 17 students. Australia, the Peoples Republic

of China and Japan each have 13 students and 27 countries have only a single representative. Of the current membership 41% are women, 40% study arts and 16% are married. All of these figures are the same as last year.

The new Gates Scholarship Scheme may have contributed to the record interest in Darwin and Cambridge – Darwin has welcomed 7 Gates Scholars this year. However, this is only a partial explanation for the large number and high calibre of entrants. The greater reason seems to be that at the dawn of the new century Darwin's reputation is growing apace.



The 2002 Darwin Lecture Series continues the rich tradition of looking at a single theme from a number of oblique perspectives. This year's series on POWER starts with Tony Benn addressing 'Power and Democracy' and ends with Mary Archer on 'Sustainable Power'. Lectures start at 5.30pm in Lady Mitchell Hall. All are welcome and an early arrival is recommended as many lectures are over-subscribed. Further details at [www.dar.cam.ac](http://www.dar.cam.ac)

|        |                       |  |
|--------|-----------------------|--|
| 18 Jan | POWER & DEMOCRACY     | Tony Benn  |
| 25 Jan | POWER IN CELLS        | John Walker, MRC Dunn Human Nutrition Unit               |
| 1 Feb  | POWERS OF TEN         | Neil de Grasse Tyson, Hayden Planetarium, New York       |
| 8 Feb  | NARRATIVE POWER       | Maureen Thomas, Cambridge University Moving Image Studio |
| 15 Feb | POWER OF LIFE & DEATH | Elisabeth Bronfen, University of Zurich                  |
| 22 Feb | POWER OF MUSIC        | Derek Scott, Salford University                          |
| 1 Mar  | POWER OF MATHEMATICS  | John Conway, Princeton University                        |
| 8 Mar  | SUSTAINABLE POWER     | Mary Archer, National Energy Foundation                  |



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## Just what do archivists actually do?

Come to that, what is an archivist? Someone who, if their handwriting is bad enough, may be mistaken for an activist, or better still an anarchist. There is indeed ample scope for archival anarchy, or anarchic archivry, but the fictional stereotype does not, or has not yet to my knowledge, recognised this happy possibility. The fictional archivist is a weedy individual, usually male, shabbily attired, somewhat shaven and generally grubby. He sits in a cellar pouring over vellum scrolls, usually described as parchment, and if the hero managed to accost him, he rather reluctantly produces one scroll after another, until, seized with a demented enthusiasm, he enters into the spirit of the chase and starts hauling massive and extremely dusty tomes off vertiginously high shelves and finally drops one on either his own or his enquirer's glasses.

If only! The only thing that is recognisable in this image is the general grubbiness. Being an archivist is a dirty job. However, it is not the ancient scrolls (and yes, we do have ancient scrolls) which are grimy, they have been beautifully conserved according to the most up-to-date methods. Well, some of

them have. Rather what is grimy is the new material coming in from basements and attics, from under-stairs cupboards, and from surplus lavatories suddenly thought not to be surplus after all.

'So', people ask, 'what do you actually do?' My standard answer used to be, 'I type lists and I label cardboard boxes.' And, indeed, a substantial number of years in my life have been devoted to just these romantic exercises. Several months have been devoted to humping the cardboard boxes (and massive tomes) hither and yon. There is no place for the weedy!

So what are these lists I have devoted so much time to typing? With luck they are lists I have drawn up myself, and they are, of course, lists of archives – or lists of where the archives are to be found, or lists of readers, or lists of archives repaired or photographed or just consulted this year. Stand up the boy who said that the job offered no scope for creativity! There are also lists of archives received and not retained; lists, you might well say, of junk.

This is where life gets interesting. Not only do we take things in, in a manner of speaking, but we also throw them out. This would not happen in the best of all possible worlds. In that world the chaps who create the documents would code them, at the very moment of writing, according to their predicted life cycle. Some would

be destroyed at the end of the year, some kept for five to ten years and then destroyed, some would be re-assessed in five years, or at five-yearly intervals, and some would be so obviously vital that they would be printed out on acid-free paper and conveyed to the archives in five, ten, twenty years time. It's a nice idea, and, believe it or not, there are places where it happens. In an institution the size of Darwin it would be quite possible to achieve, but one of the glories of the university, from some points of view, is that each department or faculty has a certain freedom to go its own way, and boy! Do they go it!

In theory, the archives of an institution should reveal, by its ordering, the way in which that institution works, such that they are grouped under the officer, or the body, which generated them, and the officers or bodies which answer to them are sub-groups within the main group. That is easy enough to achieve for any given moment of time, but it becomes a puzzle when the institution is constantly evolving. Thus, the documents surviving from the first 300 or so years of the university, charters apart, were nearly all compiled by the proctors. Those for the next 400 years mostly by the registry, but the function and the form of the documents does not change significantly.

*continued on page 5*

### Darwin College Society Calendar

Friday, 18th March 2002

DCS Dinner

Friday, 17th May 2002

DCS Dinner

Friday, 12th July 2002

Old Darwinian Summer Party

(invitation enclosed with this issue)

## Darwinian Pairings

Darwinian biologists view the phenomenon of 'assortative mating' (by which animals and people tend to couple with similar types) as an important influence on genetic selection. Darwin College provides many examples. We continue the list here with the addition of two of your editors.

**Richard Jebb** (1986-87, Diploma in Computing) is now Technical Director of the software company PCF Ltd and Chairman of the DCS. **Susan Jebb** (nee Parkinson, 1986-89, PhD in Nutrition) is now Head of the Nutrition and Health Group at MRC

Human Nutrition Research in Cambridge. They have a young son Felix.

**Andrew Prentice** (1974-77, PhD in Nutrition) is Professor of International Nutrition at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Director of the MRC Nutrition Programme in The Gambia. He is Secretary to the DCS. **Ann Prentice** (nee Rubach, 1975-78, PhD in Nuclear Medicine) is now Director of MRC Human Nutrition Research in Cambridge. They have two girls studying English and Medicine at 'the other place'.

# Professor Hugh Mellor: Pro-Vice Chancellor



Abbreviating the title 'Pro-Vice-Chancellor' to 'PVC', although making the job sound much less grand, does give a clearer idea of what it is, namely a cheap plastic replica of the V-C, which can be used when the real article is unavailable ... (It does not mean being pro- as opposed to anti- the Vice-Chancellor, though VCs do need to get on with their PVCs!). More seriously, PVCs are there to help Vice-Chancellors cope with a range and number of duties that now far outstrip any one person's capacity to undertake them.

In Cambridge PVCs are a fairly recent innovation, and we still only have two where most comparable Universities have four or five. But then we also have Deputy V-Cs, often heads of Colleges, who may stand in for the V-C on certain formal occasions such as conferring degrees. Although PVCs may also be Deputy V-Cs, our work is quite different. Nor are we administrators, with fairly well defined responsibilities, but more like political odd-jobbers, who may be asked to tackle all sorts of one-off tasks.

I for example was originally recruited to oversee the University's submission to this year's Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), an assessment of the research done in all University departments. This determines how much research money UK Universities will get from the Government for the next five years. In fact, this job was so well organised by Peta Stevens (now herself a Fellow of Darwin) and her staff that reading our submissions, and settling a few borderline questions about who should be entered and in what subjects, took up much less of my time than I'd expected.

The smooth central organisation of our RAE entries enabled me to spend more time on the tricky but pleasant task of setting up a new Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), which started work last year. That was a typical PVC job: consulting the Faculties and Departments affected, to get their support and meet their concerns; devising CRASSH's structure and staffing; finding accommodation for it; and raising funds to keep it going for five years.

Two other PVC jobs of mine have been equally important, if less agreeable.

One is persuading our already overstretched academics to fill in forms saying how they divide their time between teaching, research and other activities. We need the data to calculate (among other things) the full costs of the University's research, including staff costs, which pilot studies suggest we – like all other UK universities – have been under-estimating by over 30%, i.e. to the tune of £100m a year in Cambridge. So the sales pitch to

my colleagues is that by taking a little time to give us this data, they are taking part in the biggest collective research grant application the University has ever made!

My other main task last term was even trickier, since it had to do, not with trying to increase the University's resources, but with trying to agree on a formula for allocating them to our Schools and their Faculties and Departments. For the previous two terms I chaired a working group that included the Chairs of three of our five Schools, who were able to agree on the main principles that should govern this formula. But now the effects of these on the incomes of the Schools have been estimated we start the real task of getting prospective winners and losers to do a more or less principled deal in the interests of the University as a whole. That process has taken most of last term and is not yet finished: so although I helped to start it, I did not complete it, since my stint as PVC ended at the end of last year – just after the publication of our excellent RAE results!

*Hugh Mellor*

## A Public Holiday to celebrate Charles Darwin?

A Campaign to persuade governments to mark Charles Darwin's birthday (12th February) with a public holiday is gathering supporters. Interested readers can find full details, and many other Darwin links, on [www.darwin.org](http://www.darwin.org)

Geraldine Hartshorne (PhD, 1985-89 and Research Fellow 1991) and David Warlow (MPhil 1985-86) met on their first day in Darwin and have been together ever since, marrying in 1993. They have two children (Oliver and Emma) and a third one due. David is Divisional Development Director of ESGL, and Geraldine is a Principal Research Fellow in Biological Sciences at Warwick.

(see two other examples in the Propagation of the Species section)

## Propagation of the Species

Please send your announcements to [sandra@dar.cam.ac.uk](mailto:sandra@dar.cam.ac.uk).

### Congratulations to:

**Liza Ho-Moehrle** (nee Ho, PhD Biochemistry 1990-93) and **Joerg Moehrle** (MPhil Biochemistry 1989-90) on the birth of their son **Johannes Lin** on 29th January 2001.

**Michiyo Yamaguchi** (MPhil Linguistics 1991-92) and **David Dibben** (PhD Engineering, 1991-5) on the birth of their son **Thomas Edward** on 23rd May 2001.

**Bakary Sonko** (1988-91, PhD Nutrition) and his wife **Adji** on the birth of their daughter **Bintou** on 26th July 2001. Originally from The Gambia the Sonkos now live in Denver, Colorado.

# Darwin Fellows Retirement Dinner



*Retiring Fellows (left to right)*  
Mr Andrew Thompson, Professor Roger Whitehead, Dr  
Chester White, Mr George Gomori, Dr Peter Friend,  
Professor Ekhard Salje

Dr John Bradfield (Honorary Fellow) and  
Dr Hugh Fleming (Emeritus Fellow)



*from L to R:*  
Sir Andrew Huxley (Honorary Fellow), Dr Gordon Robin  
(Emeritus Fellow), Dr Christopher Bishop (Fellow),  
Mr Andrew Thompson (retiring Bursar),  
Mrs Hilary Thompson

Mr David Lindsay Rea (Secretary to the Rayne  
Foundation) and Mr Andrew Thompson

Professor Roger Whitehead (Emeritus Fellow) and  
Professor Hugh Mellor (Fellow)

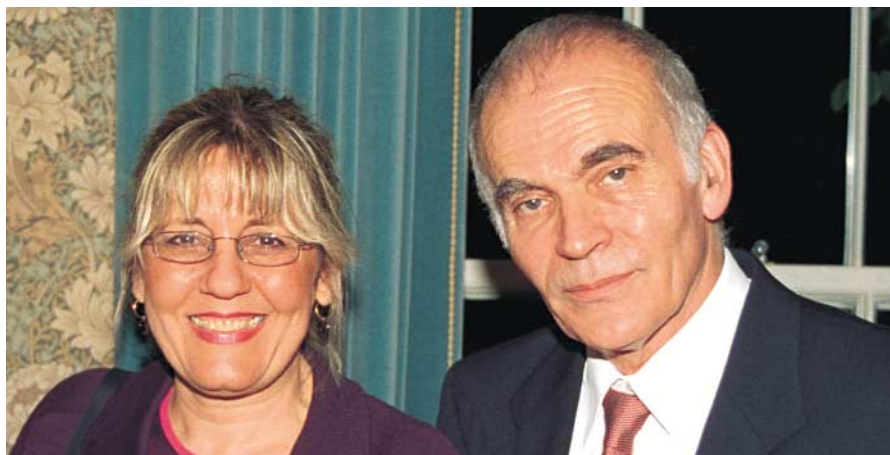
## Remembering 1956

1956 for most Britons is the year of Bill Hailey and the Comets, or else of the Suez crisis. People of my age and many of the next generation remember though another event of international significance: the Hungarian revolution. It took place in October 1956, starting with a sympathy demonstration of students with the self-reforming Poles who were then threatened with Soviet intervention. The Communist Party leadership deplored the demonstration and rejected the students' demands – when in the evening Stalin's gigantic statue was toppled and shooting started at the Radio Building, it called for Soviet military help. Next morning Soviet tanks rolled into Budapest and the rioting turned into a revolution and a fight for freedom. It was defeated in November by superior Soviet forces, but its message remained: you can overthrow a Communist dictatorship *from within*. This single event “rehabilitated” Hungary (which in World War II fought on the side of the Axis) in the eyes of the world and became the main point of reference for the Hungarian Republic proclaimed in October 1989.

This October I took part in a conference in Budapest called “Remembering 1956”. Organised jointly by the Historical Institute of the Hungarian Academy and the 1956 Research Institute, it was attended by people who had taken part in the revolution, as well as by younger historians and sociologists. Some of the lectures analysed the attitude of the post-1956 Communist regime to the revolution as well as the different “reading” of the events by post-1989 political parties. A sociological survey demonstrated that though since 1989 public awareness has grown about the real history and significance of the revolution, in 2001 thirty (!) per cent of Hungarians had no idea whatsoever what happened in their country 45 years earlier. I gave a paper on the reception of the revolution in the English press and literature during the 1956-86 period, sketching a graph of

interest which, having plummeted in 1966, grew substantially by 1976 and even more by 1986. It was at the latter date that oppositionist groups in three countries, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia signed a joint statement remembering the 1956 revolution as “the beginning of the end” for the Soviet Empire. Three years later the Berlin Wall collapsed and, for better or worse, the vision of a peacefully united Europe appeared once again on the agenda of international politics. In this context the 1956 Hungarian revolution gains further significance; in fact, it was less anti-Russian than pro-European, Hungarians demonstrating a passionate desire to belong once again to an enlightened and tolerant Europe from which they had been separated first by the Second World War and then by years of Soviet rule.

*George Gömöri (Emeritus Fellow)*



Mari and George Gömöri (Emeritus Fellow)

continued from page 2

As for the last hundred years, the organisation of the university has been changed so often, either officially, as with the new statutes of 1926, or the Wass syndicate in more recent years, or unofficially, one officer surreptitiously taking over the ancient functions of another, that you would think they had nothing better to do than to make archivists' lives a misery. Such things would be trouble enough, but we now have new, huge, intractable problems: data protection, freedom of information, electronic records.

Data protection has meant that many records were once freely available have suddenly had to be restricted; freedom of information, on the other hand, means that people may demand to see them. The Data Protection Act fails to recognise that live people invariably become dead people. Had it been in force for the last thousand years historians and biographers would be sadly short of sources.

As for electronic records: no-one has succeeded in putting in place satisfactory means of taking 'snapshots' of web-pages and bulletin boards; most people and most organisations do not archive their e-mail, and if they do, they don't weed it first; minutes circulate electronically, and each recipient may alter them; and even if all these things were not so, no-one has yet invented an affordable method of keeping the data in an accessible form for anything like the length of time that most paper (let alone vellum) records will last.

But the IT revolution brings gains as well as headaches. An enormous amount of information is now available on line, and in the coming months an astonished world will see an on-line catalogue of the university and of several college archives, complemented with metadata including a list of all university officers from the thirteenth century to the present, a glossary, and chunks of institutional history. A little later they will, we hope, be bowled over by a fully searchable list of all members of the university from the thirteenth to the nineteenth centuries (inclusive) with full biographical details. To that end I must, forthwith, go and type some more lists.

Elisabeth Leedham-Green  
(Fellow and long-time Praelector)

## Book Review

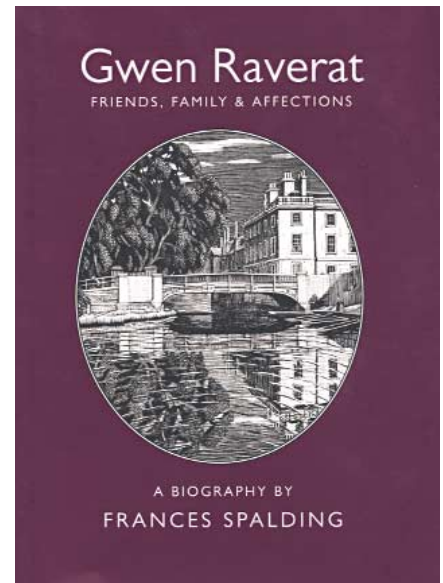
# Gwen Raverat: Friends, Family and Affections

By Frances Spalding  
(London: The Harvill Press, 2001)

Spalding's comprehensive biography of Charles Darwin's granddaughter offers a detailed, sensitive and compelling insight into the life and work of this artist and writer. Raverat, who is perhaps best known for her account of her Cambridge childhood, *Period Piece*, began and ended her life in what is now Darwin College: she was born in Newnham Grange in 1885, and died in the Old Granary in 1957. Spalding pays homage to Raverat's strong sense of place by describing these places of emotional and artistic inspiration in fascinating detail, evoking the atmosphere of the buildings and carefully charting the changes made to the house by Gwen's parents.

Most of these alterations and additions, including the boat house, the gallery and the children's playroom (now the 'Painted Room') are still appreciated today. Sadly the tennis-court to the side of Newnham Grange has since been removed! Spalding also notes that Newnham Grange was one of the first houses in Cambridge to have a telephone installed (the Darwins of Newnham Grange were listed in the directory as number 10) and that a hammock hung from the copper beech tree beside the river. Minute details such as these fill the book, drawing the reader into the private world of a very public family.

Seemingly endless receptions, dinners and parties were held at Newnham Grange and later at the Old Granary to which Cambridge's most influential people were invited. The lists of guests include many names, such as Harrison, Jebb, Keynes, Sidgwick and Adrian which still resonate around Cambridge today. Whilst Spalding's attention to detail creates a historically accurate picture of Gwen's life, she is also careful to set Gwen in her wider context. As the book's subtitle suggests, Spalding's emphasis is on Gwen's relationships with family and friends. The book opens with a detailed description of



cover illustration: *Old Silver Street Bridge*  
by Gwen Raverat, 1938  
An original of this picture was donated to  
Darwin College by Stephen Keynes and  
hangs in the Master's study

Charles Darwin's funeral at Westminster Abbey. At times it seems that Gwen is almost forgotten as Spalding devotes whole sections to key figures in her life.

Her husband Jacques Raverat is depicted in great detail, as is his intense friendship with André Gide. Rupert Brooke and Virginia Woolf are also discussed. However, the author always returns to Gwen, whose portrait gradually becomes more complete as her relationships with others are explored. By setting Gwen so thoroughly in her historical, political and social context, Spalding succeeds in providing an illuminating account of all aspects of her life. Spalding is not, however, in the business of offering an idealised and nostalgic account. As an adolescent Gwen could be 'priggish'; as she got older she became increasingly abrupt and difficult. Spalding's account of Gwen's stroke and subsequent suicide is frank, and all the more touching for it. This book is a moving and engrossing companion to *Period Piece*. However, as well as being a biography of Gwen Raverat, this book is a biography of Gwen Raverat's Cambridge: as such it will appeal to any Darwinian whose shares Gwen's sense of place.

The book contains 10 colour plates and is illustrated with a large number of black and white reproductions of Gwen's drawings and wood-engravings, including depictions of Newnham Grange, the Old Granary and the Islands.

Hannah Thompson  
Adrian Research Fellow

# Obituary George Pember Darwin

## *Honorary Fellow*

George Darwin, a direct descendant of Erasmus and Charles Darwin, was born in Edinburgh in 1928 the son of Professor (later Sir) C.G. Darwin. His initial school education was in Scotland but after his father's move to Cambridge he attended St Faiths and ultimately Marlborough. A popular family anecdote, which may well have been pivotal in his future choice of both career and major hobby, describes how at the age of 6 he found his father's watch and immediately took it to pieces to see how it worked. Showing remarkable enlightenment his father said nothing would be done about the matter if George were able to put it back together again, which he did! This skill remained with him and he became a great clock collector and restorer. Straight from school he became part of the first peace-time call up for National Service and was commissioned into the Royal Artillery. On leaving the army he went up to Trinity College, Cambridge where he was an exhibitor to read physical sciences. He joked that he was the only student who could arrive directly from home by boat (via punt from Newnham Grange)!

After graduating in 1951 he spent the rest of his working life in industry in the rapidly developing field of electronics. He was proud of his career choice but often commented on the fact that engineers in Britain were undervalued by industry and should be given much more credit than tends to be the case here in contrast to the USA and the rest of Europe. Initially he worked for Marconi in Chelmsford, but he came to realise that if he were to gain the advanced expertise he needed he would have to go to the USA. He joined the Bell Telephone Laboratories in Summit, New Jersey. For most of the time his research involved the development of electronic switching devices which were ultimately to

become so important in the evolution of modern computers.

He returned to the UK at the end of 1960 and was able to contribute his new expertise to the embryonic British computer industry, first with ICT and English Electric then ICL. He was primarily responsible for the specific design features and installation of large mainframe computers within the commercial sector. He was the sort of man who never stopped working and at a social gathering he would all of a sudden take out of his pocket an old envelope to jot down a mathematical concept that he had just realised was relevant to his current project. He was a member of the British Computer Society almost from its inception and was also a Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers (MIEE). He was very much a 'club man' and was a member of the Saville Club of London as generations of Darwins before him had been.

George Darwin married Angela Huxley in 1964. They had four children, Lucy, Clare, William and a further baby, Susannah who died in infancy. Genetically it is interesting that all three followed their mother's lead and adopted an arts rather than a scientific track at university: Two studied history and the third politics with economics. George was a considerate and very gentle father. He was also renowned for the great kindness and patience he showed to everyone he met. He was a skilled diplomat and it was through him that the Darwin Heirlooms Trust was set up which safeguarded not only the collection of family paintings loaned to Darwin College, but also those made available to English Heritage at Down House.

George Darwin was a rather retiring and shy man and not the sort to 'push



himself forward'. His wife Angela has said that this attitude has always been a feature of the Darwins and the Huxleys have always had to look after their interests! His quiet qualities were recognised, however. He was a Vice-President of the Galapagos Trust as well as being an Honorary Fellow of both Darwin Colleges in the Universities of Kent and Cambridge. He was especially happy to be able to renew links with his old family home, and greatly enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate his 70th Birthday by holding a Garden Party in the college grounds by the river Cam and the copper beech tree of which he had such fond memories. He also cherished the chance he had to spend the night in the college guest room that had once been his parents bedroom!

George died on the 18th June 2001. He had suffered for many years, perhaps as long as 25 years, from a neurological disorder that had never been satisfactorily characterised. In retirement he had hoped to pursue another of his hobbies, joinery, which he conducted with meticulous skill, but the chronically developing disorder put an end to these aspirations. It was, however, from cancer that he ultimately died.

George Darwin, the gentle giant, will be missed not only by his family, but by the whole of Darwin College, Cambridge.

*Roger Whitehead*

## Darwinian Achievements

**Professor Andy Fabian** (Royal Society Research Professor at the Institute of Astronomy and Vice-Master of Darwin) has been awarded the Bruno Rossi Prize by the American Astronomical Society for 'observations revealing the super-massive black holes at the centre of distant galaxies'.

Weather Informatics (co-founded by Research Fellow **Dr Emily Shuckburgh** and featured in the last

issue) was awarded a DTI SMART grant in Sept. Emily herself has been nominated in the entrepreneur section of the BBC 'Smartest Woman in Britain' Award. Judging occurs in the spring.

**Alan Foster** (Old Darwinian) was made a Freeman of the City of London on 31st May 2001.

**Professor Ron Laskey** (Fellow) has been invited to give the Croonian



May and Philip McNair in the 1960's

## Obituary May McNair

May McNair (formerly Aitken) died in Cambridge on 1 November 2001, aged 88. She and her husband Philip played an active part in Darwin College life during the sixties, when Philip was Dean and May energetically supported him by entertaining numerous Graduate Members in their Huntingdon Road home – at the same time commuting daily between Cambridge and London.

May was born near Edinburgh in 1913, lost her father when she was 12 and her mother soon afterwards. She was educated at the Bell Baxter School in Cupar, Fife and at college in Dundee. After teaching for ten years in Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire, she was sent to Germany under the aegis of the Foreign Office and appointed Headmistress of the Divisional School in Hilden. She resigned this attractive but demanding post in 1948 to marry Philip, whom she met in a castle near the Rhine. They were happily married for over 53 years.

In earlier years May's radiant Christian faith, winning smile and Scottish accent were readily recognised in Cambridge circles.

Lecture of the Royal Society and the Wenner-Gren Lecture at the University of Stockholm.

Dr Susan Jebb (Old Darwinian) gave a Royal Institution Public Lecture in October 2001.

## King's Parade

A silent night  
 Only the muffled sound of thick cold air  
 Pressing on my face  
 Filling my lungs with mist  
 As I cycle through a deadened world.  
 Fog wraps the deserted streets  
 A clinging grey blanket over the centuries  
 Lights glow in mullioned windows to my left  
 Pinnacles loom spiky, encrusted, to my right  
 Ghosts of ages past  
 Reflected in the stifled white light  
 Of my bicycle lamp.  
 A bollard heaves into view, passes, and is  
 gone  
 A solitary pedestrian floats distantly by  
 Blurred in scarf and hat.  
 This was my world  
 I scarce remember it now  
 But that moment  
 A moment of solitude, of thinking  
 This isn't real,  
 The moment stays with me  
 A fog-shrouded memory  
 Gloom in the silent fuzzy light  
 Of my bicycle lamp.

*Alison Morgan*

## The Cam

languor  
 of summer flowing by  
 duckling down like dandelion  
 swan's neck arches sky  
 meadow clouds on water  
 beneath a bridge of sighs  
 dreamy sunlit laughter  
 butter stone carved spires  
 here the peace that never fails  
 for this is the place where I  
 fly-hot cattle swishing tails  
 swift's wing curving high  
 once first learnt to be myself  
 and memory glides by.

*Alison Morgan*



Informal Old Darwinian Dinner, Vienna, August 2001

## Darwinian Descendants

Our query in the last issue of THE DARWINIAN about second generation Darwinians has born its first fruit. **Ellen Nisbet**, currently studying a PhD in Biochemistry, is the daughter of **Mary Nisbet** (nee Fowler – PhD in Geodesy and Geophysics, 1972-75) and **Euan Nisbet** (PhD in Geology, 1972-75). They married in 1975, and held their wedding reception in Darwin. Both are now at the Department of Geology at Royal Holloway.

# Darwin's Choir Visits Portugal



In September Darwin joined Wolfson College Oxford on a short choral tour in Portugal where they were joined by the Orfeon Choir of the University of Coimbra. Concerts were given at the Cathedral in Lamego, Igreja Matriz de Ermesinde of Valongo, St Michael's Chapel at the University of Coimbra, and at the University of Porto.



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

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## From the Emails

### Jan Bay-Petersen writes:

My husband and I live in Taipei, and are both Old Darwinians, in fact that is where we met (Ole Bay-Petersen, Jan Bay-Petersen nee Allo, at Darwin 1970-3). We are now based at the Food and Fertilizer Technology Center for the Asian and Pacific Region. We would love to get a copy of the Darwin College Magazine, if this is possible. We learnt about the magazine from an Old Darwinian from Thailand, Orapan Nabangchang, whom I met at an agricultural development seminar. She did her PhD more than 20 years after I did mine, and I was glad to hear from her that Darwin is still the same friendly, pleasant College we remember so well.

(Note from Eds – *The Darwinian* is mailed to everyone on our alumni database. Please remember to notify any change of address to Sandra James at Darwin, or through email to [sandra@dar.cam.ac.uk](mailto:sandra@dar.cam.ac.uk)).

### Trudi Tate writes:

I was a graduate student in Darwin 1991-94. From 1999-2000 I have been a Visiting Professor at the Goethe University, Frankfurt. In January 2001 I was elected a Fellow of Clare Hall and am a tutor there. I have published several books: a collection of stories entitled *Women, Men and the Great War* (1995); *Women's Fiction and the Great War* (1997), a volume edited with Suzanne Raitt; and *Modernism,*

### *History and the First World War*

(Manchester University Press, 1998). In 2001 I published essays on literature of the Viet Nam War in *Quadrant* magazine in Australia, and I am currently working on a book about Australian memories of the Viet Nam War, and a study of representations of the Crimean War.

### Michael O'Rourke writes:

I studied at Darwin and the Judge Institute in 1995-96 and am now back working for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in Canberra. In 2000 I was seconded to the Olympic Coordination Authority and played a modest part in organising the Sydney Games. I recall helping out on one occasion in the Darwin Bar and learning three things: 1) that pouring Guinness is a delicate skill; 2) that the names of single-malt whiskies are not pronounced as they are written; and 3) why younger people prefer to use electronic cash registers to calculate change (rather than their brains).

### Steve Wimperis writes:

I was a research fellow at Darwin from 1988-90. I have been at Exeter University since October 1999 as a reader in Magnetic Resonance. My research interests remain centred on the development of new technologies in nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy, and I have published about 65 papers in this field. Last year I co-authored *NMR: The Toolkit* published by OUP.



## Letters

Gentlemen,

Far be it from me to criticise your excellent journal, *The Darwinian*, but I was rather taken aback by the new format. I always read it from cover to cover but I found it necessary to adjust the light on the very shiny paper, printed in a small and grey typeface (more legible with a magnifying glass), but I must congratulate your printer on the excellent colour printing, especially the tiny pictures, and minute text. I suppose this is a good test of the visual acuity of your readers but for oldies like me a disappointment and a struggle instead of a pleasure.

Yours bifocally,  
Geoffrey R. Fisk

*Editor's reply – Thank you for your feedback.*

*You will see that we have enhanced the density of the fonts in this issue, and trust that you will find it legible.*