

Attack of the killer plants:  
we delve into the undergrowth

Heavy metal and critical theory:  
what Kant has to say about Slayer

Cracking down on kleptocracy may  
have revolutionary consequences



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# CAM

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**Editor**  
Mira Katbamna

**Commissioning editor**  
Steve McGrath

**Design and art direction**  
Rob Flanagan

**University of Cambridge**  
Bruce Mortimer  
Charis Goodyear

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### Publisher

The University of Cambridge  
Development & Alumni Relations  
1 Quayside, Bridge Street  
Cambridge CB5 8AB  
Tel +44 (0)1223 332288

### Editorial enquiries

Tel +44 (0)1223 332288  
cameditor@alumni.cam.ac.uk

### Alumni enquiries

Tel +44 (0)1223 332288  
contact@alumni.cam.ac.uk  
alumni.cam.ac.uk  
facebook.com/cambridgealumni  
@Cambridge\_Uni #camalumni

### Advertising enquiries

Tel +44 (0)20 7520 9474  
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## YBM

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## Editor's letter

Welcome to the Lent edition of CAM. What does Brexit hold? As I write this, with only a few weeks to go, the only possible answer is: uncertainty. So, naturally, on page 20, we ask Catherine Barnard, Professor of EU Law, to predict the future.

What does Kant have to say about Slayer? Or indeed, about Metallica? According to Dr Ross Wilson, Lecturer in Critical Theory, rather more than you might think. On page 24, he explains how his youthful obsession with heavy metal music has influenced his academic day job.

Elsewhere, on page 36, we examine why, from the General Strike to the campaign to ban Sainsbury's, Mill Road has long provided a home to radicals (and students), and on page 14 we delve into the undergrowth to uncover the secret life of plants.

And on page 30, Professor Jason Sharman explains why the current global crackdown on kleptocracy – rule by thieves – has the potential to be revolutionary, both for those poor nations whose money has been looted and for those rich nations where the money is spent.

As ever, on all these topics, we look forward to your contribution to the debate, whether by post, email or on social media.

**Mira Katbamna** (Caius 1995)  
cameditor@alumni.cam.ac.uk



## Inbox

### On charisma

✉ To my mind charisma and charm are co-dependent and represent compelling attractiveness that can inspire devotion in others. The CAM feature (CAM 85) infers that this can be learnt, which is suspect, given that a charm offensive is soon unmasked. Since I have yet to encounter a depressed charismatic individual, I would add optimism as a key ingredient to be considered – and I doubt that optimism can be taught to an individual or a robot.

**Nigel Collin**

(Christ's 1968)

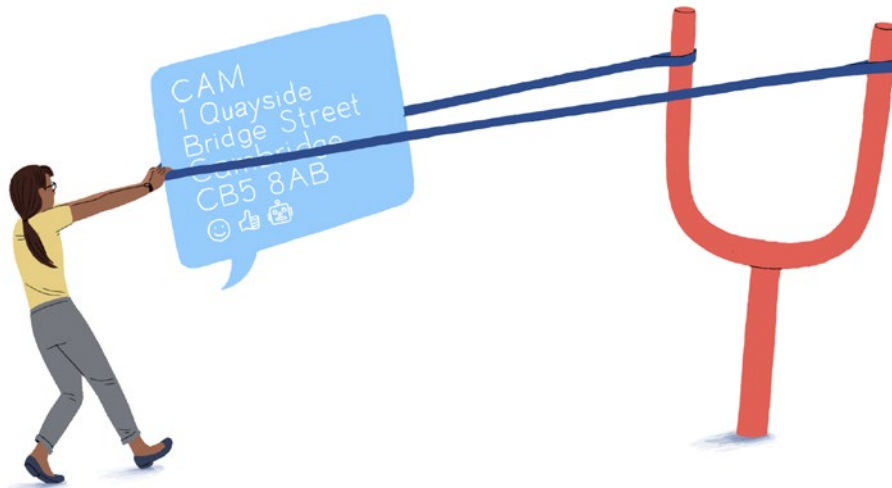
✉ Really enjoyed reading the fascinating piece on the subject of charisma in the last issue. It's perhaps interesting to note, though, that well before the rise of totalitarianism in the 20th century, the German sociologist Max Weber did think he had seen someone who, at least in prototype, embodied the qualities that he perceived as characterising the 'charismatic leader': William Gladstone. Historian Colin Matthew relates how those attending the Liberal statesman's public meetings often came away feeling 'Gladstonised' by the experience.

**James Smith**

(Pembroke 2009)

✉ Contrary to the assertion made in your piece on charisma, Nigel Farage et al did not persuade "almost 52 per cent of the British public that leaving the EU was a good idea". On a turnout of 72.21 per cent, 51.89 per cent





## Write to us

We are always delighted to receive your emails, letters, tweets and facebook posts.

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voted to leave; in other words, 37.47 per cent of the electorate (and an even smaller percentage of the "public") voted to leave.

**Ian Wilson**  
(Churchill 1970)

✉ Reading your article on charisma made me realise its importance in the 'age of anxiety', as CAM so calls it. In particular, it made me ponder the notion that charisma can be 'learned' and if we were all to learn it, would it still retain its effect as explored in your article? Food for thought.  
**Cordelia North**  
(Homerton 2011)

## Machine learning

✉ I took particular note of the comment at the end of your piece on AI: "We need human intelligence to control it." Bravo! But let's go further: human intelligence in this context surely means wisdom, thus arguably 'the knowledge of how to be and behave for the best for all concerned in any given situation'.

It therefore strikes me that we need wisdom very badly in the world today, and in many more problematic and artificial circumstances than those presented by AI.  
**Larry Culliford**  
(St Catharine's 1968)

✉ The speed and extent of development have vastly increased. With no cars, the first rideable bicycles only came when my grandfathers were young men. Antibiotics and atomic bombs came in the early

1940s. The first electronic computer came after I started at Emmanuel. "Wow, it can play tic-tac-toe!"

As you point out, AI has not taken over humankind. We started it for its benefit to us. Let us think how we want to develop the civilised world. If we do not think about it we might well just obliterate ourselves.

Maybe Cambridge can lead the way in showing what developments in people are possible. The changes could be just as vast and rapid as those have been in physical possessions and in AI. They surely could rank as important as developments in physical possessions and AI.

Cambridge University has a deserved reputation for encouraging research and development. How about the future of humankind? Is Cambridge ready to take a big part in finding ways towards a humane future for the world? I hope so.

**Charles Simmonds**  
(Emmanuel 1943)

## Peterhouse sex club

✉ It is the privilege and joy of every generation to believe, for a short while at least, that they invented sex. However, the implication that the Peterhouse JCR became the Sex Club when Virginia Murray became president in 1988 must be challenged by those older, if no wiser.

I have no doubt that the founders of the Sexcentenary Club in 1884 intended to

bequeath the joke in perpetuity to their successors, and I can attest to its currency in 1963, when it justified the risqué soubriquet by subscribing to two copies of the *News of the World*.

**Alan Calver**  
(Peterhouse 1963)

## Geographers anonymous

🐦 Great to see @bhask286 featured in the new issue of @Cambridge\_Uni CAM magazine! I'm glad to know I'm not the only Cambridge geographer who has never studied geography...

**Chris Sandbrook**  
(University Senior Lecturer and Director of the MPhil in Conservation Leadership; Fellow of Darwin)

## Still busy doing nothing

✉ Your correspondents (CAM 85) misunderstand boredom: "Mummee! I'm bored." "Well, darling, why don't you... or... or...."

"No, Mummy, you don't understand. Being bored isn't not knowing what to do. It's not wanting to do anything and wishing you didn't not want to do anything."

Courtesy of my brother Ben (Trinity 1969), then aged about 11.  
**Simon Clackson**  
(Trinity 1962)

## Nine lessons from Cornwall

📖 I always look forward to reading your excellent magazine. However, readers may not be aware that the Nine Lessons

service originated in Cornwall in Truro Cathedral, in 1880, 138 years ago.

**Harry Woodhouse**  
(Queens' 1949)

✉ The suggestion that the first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was held at King's College in 1918, 100 years ago, is not entirely accurate. The festival was actually designed by Edward White Benson, first bishop of Truro, and inaugurated in the cathedral-under-construction on Christmas Eve 1880.

**John Key**  
(Pembroke 1957)

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## IN NUMBERS

# 05

Five members of Collegiate Cambridge were recognised in the 2019 New Year honours list: Professor David Klenerman was knighted; Professor Madeleine Atkins was made a DBE; Professor John (Ewan) Birney was made a CBE; and Dr Jennifer Schooling and Andrew Nairne were awarded OBEs.



David and Claudia Harding

## PHILANTHROPY

### Biggest single gift to fund students

The David and Claudia Harding Foundation has given £100m to the Collegiate University to help attract the most talented postgraduate and undergraduate students from the UK and around the world. It is the biggest single gift to a UK university by a British donor and will fund two key areas of student support.

The Harding Distinguished Postgraduate Scholars Programme will provide fully funded scholarships, enabling the University to attract the most talented PhD students, whatever their circumstances. The Harding Collegiate Cambridge Challenge Fund will support undergraduates, and a further sum has been set aside to stimulate innovative approaches to attracting undergraduate students from under-represented groups.

Professor Stephen J Toope, Vice-Chancellor, said: "This extraordinarily

generous gift will be invaluable in sustaining Cambridge's place among the world's leading universities and will help to transform our offer to students. We want to attract, support and fund the most talented students we can find from all parts of the UK and the world.

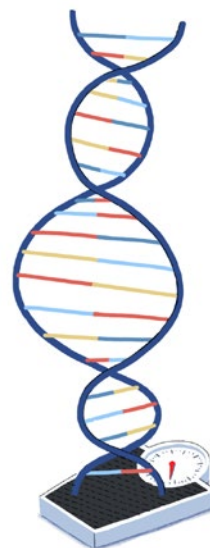
"We are determined that Cambridge should nurture the finest academic talent, whatever the background or means of our students, to help us fulfil our mission 'to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence'."

In October 2018, Professor Toope announced the Student Support Initiative (SSI), focused on: postgraduate studentships; undergraduate financial support and widening participation; and student wellbeing, sport and cultural activities.



## NEW HEADS OF HOUSE

The current British Ambassador to Belgium, Alison Rose (Newnham 1980), has been chosen by the Fellows of Newnham as their new Principal-elect. Rose will join Newnham in September. Trinity has announced that its next Master will be Professor Dame Sally Davies, currently Chief Medical Adviser to the UK government. Dame Sally will be installed in October.



## ALUMNI BENEFITS

# New city? New sector? No problem

From Northallerton to North America and from Brighton to Bangalore, the University and Colleges' 442 (and counting) groups offer networking opportunities, hospitality and friendship, and are open to all alumni.

Supported by the University's Alumni Office and by College Development Offices, groups range from those focused on particular industries and interests – such as the Cambridge Alumni Arbitration Law Association, CAMentrepreneurs and the Motorcycle Association – to those for a particular city, region or country, such as Cambridge Alumni in Mauritius and the Lancashire Cambridge Society. Joint Oxford-Cambridge groups, such as the Oxford and Cambridge Society UAE or the Oxford and Cambridge Society of Toronto, thrive in many places around the world. And for those

just 10 years out, Cambridge10 runs London events for new graduates and young professionals.

Every group is different, taking in the solo local organiser and the large committee, and what they get up to varies too: from monthly pub nights to networking and careers events, talks and lectures from guest speakers, events to celebrate the Boat Races and annual gatherings and dinners.

And don't forget that alumni groups are just one of the many benefits the University's alumni office provides for graduates. To discover what your local and industry groups are organising or to find out more about the full range of alumni benefits – from events and journal access to CAM and the CAMCard – please visit [alumni.cam.ac.uk/benefits](http://alumni.cam.ac.uk/benefits).

[alumni.cam.ac.uk/groups](http://alumni.cam.ac.uk/groups)

## TWO-MINUTE TRIPOS

**SUBJECT**  
**SLIM PEOPLE HAVE A GENETIC ADVANTAGE WHEN IT COMES TO LOSING WEIGHT. DISCUSS.**

I've tried 5:2, the cabbage soup diet, Atkins, Weight Watchers, SlimFast, and that one where those celebrities lived on maple syrup and baby food. But I haven't lost any weight. Why?

You know the old saying: eat less, move more. It works for me. Burger?

But look at you, with tomato ketchup all over your chin. Your only regular exercise is opening the fridge door.

Nonsense. I am clearly just a better person than you. I obviously just have more willpower than you. Hobnob?

So you're saying that even though I spent nine weeks eating nothing but cabbage soup, I have no willpower?

Hand me the cake now.

Well, I suppose genetics could be a thing. Full-fat cola, anyone?

Actually, according to the Study Into Lean and Thin Subjects (STILTS) at the Wellcome-MRC Institute of Metabolic Science and the largest ever study into the subject, that may well be why some people find it easier to stay thin than others.

Largest study, ha ha ha!

Oh, put a doughnut in it. The researchers found several common genetic variants already identified as playing a role in obesity. And they found new genetic regions involved in severe obesity and healthy thinness. Just sounds like another excuse to me. The obvious conclusion is that most people just don't have my self-control. Hmm. I'm with Professor Sadaf Farooqi, who led the study. She said: "This research shows for the first time that healthy thin people are generally thin because they have a lower burden of genes that increase a person's chances of being overweight – and not because they are morally superior, as some people like to suggest."

Mine's a knickerbocker glory. With extra cream.

[cam.ac.uk/stilts](http://cam.ac.uk/stilts)





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## Training the next generation of historians is a serious business

*Dr Renaud Morieux* is a University Senior Lecturer in British History and a Fellow of Jesus.



As I type, I am emerging from what has perhaps been an even busier period than usual for me. In October, I was delighted to attend a conference in Germany on 'Markets and Morals', which gave me the opportunity to engage with historians, anthropologists and geographers. I also finished a book manuscript, on the history of war and incarceration in the 18th century, which has occupied me for several years.

And, as the current Director of Graduate Training and Admissions at the Faculty of History, I have spent much of this term thinking about and working with our graduate students and overseeing admissions to the MPhil and PhD programme. The crunch period is December and early January, when most applications arrive. It is a cliché, but for an academic, there is something weirdly fulfilling about ticking things off a list at the end of the day. Historians typically take months to write an article, and years to write a book. I don't have this luxury in my job as a 'DGT' – not always a bad thing.

Of course, once students get here, we want them to succeed. Cambridge can be a strange place, and one that no one can claim to understand completely. So, at the beginning of Michaelmas, I organised a series of talks for our new PhD students, including one designed to help those who come from outside Cambridge to begin to understand the customs of our weird tribe – which has its own language, rituals and idiosyncrasies. A couple of our more advanced PhD students talked about their own experiences: it is always reassuring for graduates to hear from their peers that it is normal, daunting and also exciting to feel that their research is taking them in unexpected directions.

One of the dimensions of the role that I enjoy the most regards graduate training. I really like engaging in a conversation on equal terms with the grads, giving them tips and sharing with them some lessons, good and bad, I've learnt over the years.

“  
**In Michaelmas, I organised a talk for our new PhD students – including one designed to help them begin to understand the customs of our weird tribe**  
”

Last year, I initiated a new series of seminars aimed at PhD students, entitled 'Building Your Academic Career'. The speakers, from different backgrounds and at different stages in their careers, come ready to speak candidly about their experiences, the challenges they have faced and even their failures – not just the polished version that we usually present in research seminars.

So far, we've had sessions on the virtues of moving between institutions, and the rewards of interdisciplinarity. This year, we'll have a session on pedagogy, another on how to be competitive in the US job market, and one on how to navigate competition – and collegiality – as a graduate student. The format is very informal, and the speakers are explicitly asked to talk about their personal and professional experience rather than their intellectual trajectory.

Although I would love all our students to go on to become professional historians, my role is to ensure that they leave Cambridge equipped for their future careers – and, increasingly, an academic job is not the only professional prospect for students with a PhD in History.

In conversation with other colleagues in the Faculty, we are planning another series of sessions. Contributors from other professions – for example journalists, curators, HR managers, lawyers or software developers – would do much to open the eyes of young historians to alternative careers, which they often know very little about.

In between my own research, supervisions and managing the grad programme, Michaelmas term is when we make final decisions on who will join our undergraduate programme in the next academic year. I have just finished interviewing 48 candidates, all of whom applied to study History at Jesus next year – a sign, I hope, of our popularity, and of the enduring appeal of History!

*To find out more about graduate support, visit: [philanthropy.cam.ac.uk/supporting-graduates](http://philanthropy.cam.ac.uk/supporting-graduates)*





“One of the things I took away was that you always need to remember who is outside the circle, outside the room”

## Y27 Third Court, Christ's

Rowan Williams (*Christ's* 1968) and third-year Human, Social and Political Science student Grace Etheredge discuss icons, baked beans and a bed-sized alcove.



Fifty years separate Rowan Williams (*Christ's* 1968) and third-year HSPS student Grace Etheredge, but following a discussion on the unexpected hazards of wearing a mitre (low-hanging chandeliers are a challenge), it emerges that they both brought the same item to room Y27: an icon.

Williams brought his from the Christian monastic fraternity at Taizé, France, which he had visited just before he came up. “Along with some crockery – my parents had this idea that you would probably need to make a cup of tea every now and again – and lots of books.” Etheredge’s is by Francisco Argüello,

the founder of the Catholic movement, Neocatechumenal Way. “I’m the oldest of eight in a Catholic family,” she says. “The icon reminds me of home – and keeps me on track.”

Williams says the room has barely changed since he first saw it as a first-year. The gas fire over which he heated baked beans has gone, but the room’s most distinctive feature, the bed-sized alcove, remains. Indeed, Etheredge says it’s the best room she’s had so far. “In my first year, I overlooked the alley. In my second year, my view was of a bike yard. And then I got lucky. This room is perfect when my family visit.” Williams, too, made the most

of the room’s proportions. “There were half a dozen of us who came up from Swansea grammar schools, all of us feeling a little bit like: ‘What on earth is going on?’ We used to meet in this room for tea, to catch up, reminisce about Swansea and tell each other funny stories about the extraordinary people we were meeting here – the bizarre and exotic English!”

Etheredge travelled to Nigeria with VSO in her gap year, while Williams worked with Cambridge’s homeless community and volunteered at what is now Mencap. “I was trying to keep one foot outside the academic

## BEER BEFORE WINE AND YOU'LL FEEL FINE

Or not. Research has found that drinking beer before wine still results in a hangover. But there is an upside, says Senior Clinical Fellow Dr Kai Hensel: "Unpleasant as hangovers are, they do have one important benefit: they are a protective warning sign that will have aided humans over the ages to change their future behaviour. In other words, they can help us learn from our mistakes."



## WHAT'S ON FOR ALUMNI

### THE BOAT RACE – 7 APRIL

Join fellow alumni and friends on the Tideway and around the world to cheer on the Light Blues as they defend their titles and aim to win all four races – Women's, Men's, Women's Reserve and Men's Reserve – again this year. As well as lining the Thames, alumni groups globally will be coming together to lend their support. Please visit the website (below) to find out what's happening near you.

### GLOBAL CAMBRIDGE MUNICH – 27 APRIL

Get exclusive access to the Literaturhaus München, meet fellow alumni based in Munich, and hear firsthand the Vice-Chancellor, Stephen J Toope's vision for Cambridge in 2019 at this Global Cambridge event in the heart of Germany.

### ALUMNI FESTIVAL – 27-29 SEPTEMBER

The Alumni Festival is a unique opportunity to hear some of the University's leading researchers and most exciting thinkers talking directly about their work. Whether you're fascinated by quantum or obsessed with quatrains, the Festival offers something to delight all brilliant minds. So save the date: the Festival will take place from 27 to 29 September and booking will open in the summer.

[alumni.cam.ac.uk/events](http://alumni.cam.ac.uk/events)

## A CAMBRIDGE GUIDE TO...

# Proteomics

Proteomics is the large-scale study of proteins and their role in living cells and organisms. Understanding how proteins work is key to answering vital questions about how biological systems function: how our body's cells respond to drug treatment, for example. But these complex compounds require a great deal of expertise and expensive equipment to study effectively. Now, the University has joined the European Proteomics Initiative Consortium (EPIC-XS), made up of 18 research groups, which has just received a €10m research grant from the EU.

This kind of international collaboration is essential, says Kathryn Lilley, head of the Cambridge Centre for Proteomics (CCP). "There is a vast array of proteomics methods and each laboratory can only become expert in a subset of these," she says. "By working together, we can finesse our methodologies to uncover important cellular processes inaccessible with current approaches." [proteomics.bio.cam.ac.uk](http://proteomics.bio.cam.ac.uk)



Grace's icon is by Francisco 'Kiko' Argüello

world: a reminder that this isn't everything, that you might see the University more accurately if you have a little perspective from people who aren't insiders. I guess that was one of the things I took away, the feeling you always need to remember who is outside the circle and outside the room."

Indeed, this room has been the backdrop to testing times. "When times have been tough, my neighbours were there for me," says Etheredge. "Cambridge is intense and it brings out the best in people, even though you have to confront the worst in yourself along the way." Williams agrees. "There's a wonderful phrase in Kingsley Amis's novel *Lucky Jim* about getting over the desperate maturity of your 20s," he says. "And the same is true of the desperate maturity of the late teens. I was a tense, perfectionist sort of teenager, determined to get into things and do well. I hope I learned a bit, in those three years, about how not to be trapped by that."

**Rowan Williams**, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury, is now Master of Magdalene. **Grace Etheredge** hopes to take a year out before becoming a barrister.

ILLUSTRATION: MICHAEL KIRKHAM





# SMALL GROUP TOURS



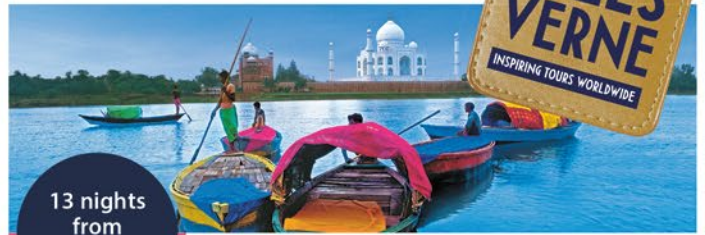
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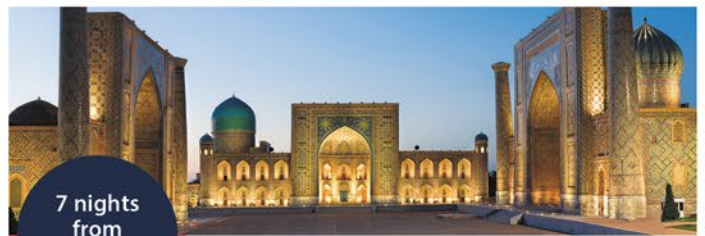
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## I will still be here, stargazing

The Cambridge University Astronomical Society can teach you how to get a lens cap off, focus a telescope and use the coordinate system. But you'll need your own eyes to appreciate the universe.

**W**ant to use the Institute of Astronomy's two massive telescopes, Northumberland and Thorowgood? Join the Cambridge University Astronomical Society (CUAS)... and then endure a number of tests of skill, as committee chair second-year NatSci Hannah Sanderson (Jesus) explains.

Take, for example, getting the lens cap off a 20-foot-long telescope. Tricky at the best of times, it requires a steady hand and a stepladder. Then there is the fact that lenses are clamped in one direction but not the other: move yours below the horizontal and the lens will misalign.

And there are other hazards. "Thorowgood is in a 10-sided dome, so you have to line it up correctly with the walls when you close it," says Sanderson. "If you leave gaps, animals can get in, like bats and birds. That's interesting, when you turn up to do some observing and random animals start flying out at you..."

Happily, the Society provides ample training in "how not to break the telescopes", as Sanderson puts it, how to focus them and how to use the coordinate system to find objects in the night sky. Indeed, the Society runs weekly observation evenings, where members can come to gaze at whatever glories the night sky offers.

Last summer, members gathered to watch the transit of Europa across the face of Jupiter. "It was one of the most exciting things I've ever seen," says Sanderson. "We had to wait until 11pm, and you could see Jupiter's different belts, and Europa, this white shiny object. Then it became a dark dot across Jupiter's face, and we took it in turns to watch as it travelled across the planet."

No expensive equipment is required to use the telescopes – though for cold nights, several layers and thermal underwear are highly recommended. Indeed, staying warm is crucial for stargazers.

"You need to stay warm for long enough to observe," she says. "But no matter how many layers you wear, there's a critical point where you just lose so much energy through your shoes that your feet turn to ice blocks." Having said that, when you use your eyes, you forget about your feet.

"You get an appreciation of how big our universe is, and how amazing it is to look at these objects that are thousands, if not millions, of light years away. Seeing it with your own eyes is so satisfying." [astronomy.soc.srccf.net](http://astronomy.soc.srccf.net)



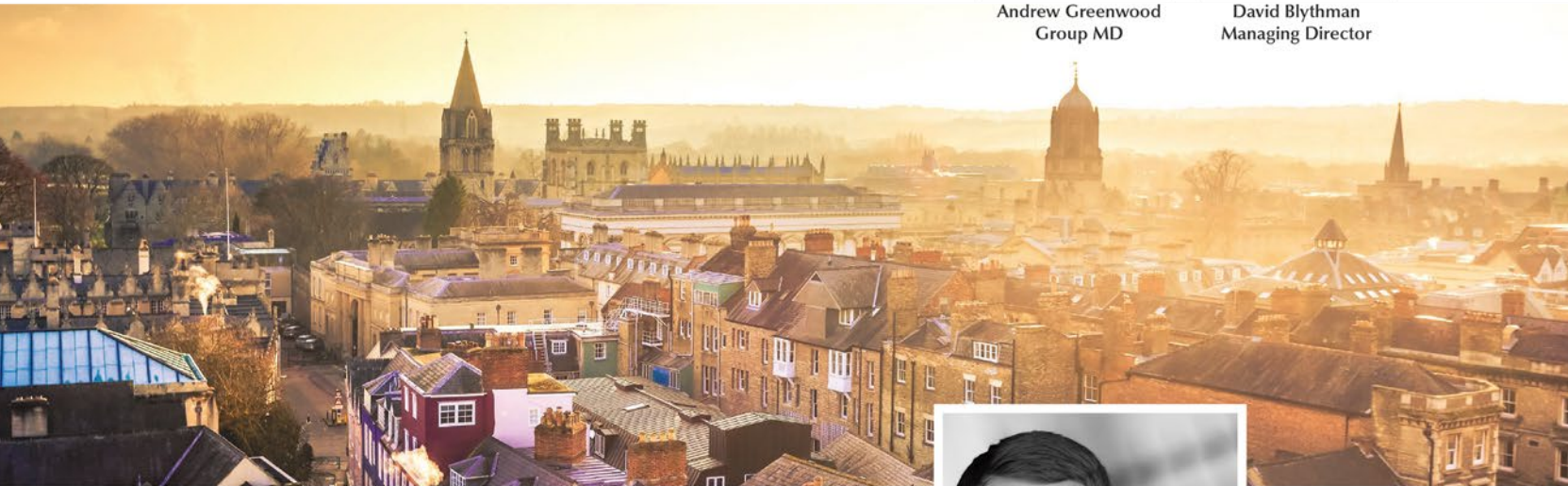




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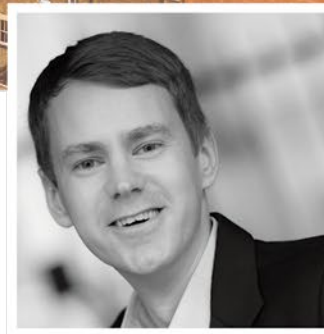
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Mr OM, Japan

# What did people in Nigeria living around 2000 BC eat? And what can diet tell us about their lives?

King's fourth-year PhD student, *Chioma Vivian Ngonadi*, is a Gates Scholar in the Department of Archaeology.



Food is crucial to the survival of human life and so it is unsurprising that it is also a significant aspect of society. In ancient cultures, the adoption of agriculture represented a vital change in lifestyle – the resulting potential for food resources has become associated with the emergence and development of complex societies. The act of plant cultivation, harvesting and utilisation creates a picture of a community's identity and social interactions. Understanding food expands the archaeological view of how people organised themselves and their relationship with others.

My research focuses on a small village called Lejja, in Igboland, south-eastern Nigeria. We know that iron smelting flourished in this region on an industrial scale from around 2000 BC: the huge number of slag blocks on the surface reveals that iron working here was a highly sophisticated, long-lived and well-developed tradition with techniques that involved relatively large-scale metal production.

But despite the evidence suggesting human activity from at least the Palaeolithic period, scientific studies on ancient food-producing societies here are rare. They are also mostly based on hypothetical assumptions drawing on oral history and ethnographic data. No site in this region has been investigated in significant detail for subsistence reconstruction. Consequently, the lack of scientific research on archaeological data on food production and plant exploitation in the deeper past have limited our understanding of the prehistoric subsistence and food history of this area.

I wanted to change this. My research focuses on conducting a thorough empirical and archaeological investigation into the histography of food-ways and agriculture in south-eastern Nigeria, by bringing together archaeological data with historical, botanical and material science techniques. I am aiming to find out how west African iron smelters in Lejja 2,000 years ago sustained life

“Despite the evidence suggesting human activity from the Palaeolithic period, scientific studies in Igboland are rare and often based on assumption, oral history and ethnographic data”

and integrated with the quest for food. This research will inform our understanding of the human-landscape relationship with emphasis on the plant foods exploited, the vegetation, technology and land-use patterns.

Much of this project has focused on how plant food resources were managed – particularly which plants were cultivated (as opposed to traded) and how subsistence practices have changed through time. Our archaeological survey and excavation has revealed that the people who inhabited Lejja in the past had a dynamic agricultural history, technological ingenuity and large, deeply stratified settlements. And it is also reflected in the diverse array of archaeological materials we have uncovered, namely pottery (decorated and undecorated), iron objects, charcoal, iron slag, tuyère fragments, iron ores, hammer stones and macrobotanical remains. Of these, the most common plant remains are oil palm, rice, tiger nut, cowpea and clove: suggesting a rich local diet.

Although the project is not complete, it has already revealed a picture of the history of food production, human occupation and the subsistence practices of the area. It has also demonstrated that archaeobotanical remains can be identified from an archaeological context in south-eastern Nigeria, despite the poor potential for the preservation of plant remains in the tropics.

And, at a broader level, it will contribute to discourse in African studies and archaeology on the emergence of agriculture, craft specialisation and social complexity. Elsewhere in west Africa, we know relatively little about early metal-producing communities beyond the technology they employed. This could be one of the first studies to effectively integrate research on metal technology with that on the broader food economy in west Africa, thereby adding an important case study to an extremely sparse archaeological record.

To find out more about the work of Gates Scholars, please visit [gatescambridge.org](http://gatescambridge.org).





# ATTACK OF THE

**Beware of the vegetation. Because beneath seemingly benign, leafy exteriors lies a world of invasions and fightbacks, mutations and adaptations, slow, painful death – and life against all the odds.**

WORDS LUCY JOLIN PHOTOGRAPHY BRENDAN GEORGE KO

# KILLER PLANTS

Picture it: a lazy spring afternoon in a traditional English country garden. Butterflies flutter, leaves rustle and birds sing. And with its bright pink flowers promising a bounty of sweet nectar, *Rhododendron ponticum* seems a perfect destination for the well-meaning European honeybee. After all, its bumblebee cousins are enjoying it: what could possibly go wrong? So, it gorges itself – and, just a few hours later, it lies dead among the clover.

We don't tend to think of plants as dangerous. In fact, most of the time, we don't think about plants at all. In 1998, two US scientists, James H Wandersee and Elisabeth E Schussler, posited the existence of 'plant blindness', which they defined as 'the inability to see or notice the plants in one's own environment'. "Show someone a picture of a chicken in a field of plants, and ask them what they see, and they'll say 'a chicken'," says Dr Sebastian Eves-van den Akker, BBSRC David Phillips Fellow and Head of Group at the Department of Plant Sciences. "We joke about it, but it's quite serious – the animal wouldn't be there if the plant wasn't there."

But this inability to notice the plants around us every day blinds us to their extraordinary powers. Take *Rhododendron ponticum*'s killer nectar, which has been described as 'the world's first chemical weapon'. In 65BCE, Mithridates VI left tempting hives along the road for Pompey the Great's army. The 'mad honey' produced by the bees who fed on the masses of rhododendrons and their toxic nectar in Turkey left the soldiers in a stupor: easy prey for Mithridates.

Or for sheer horror, says Dr Gitanjali Yadav, you can't beat the way that tobacco plants counter their chief enemy, the hornworm. "They release phytochemicals to invite the parasitic braconid wasps to tackle the hornworm," she explains. "The female wasp arrives, but it doesn't eat the hornworm. Instead, it lays its eggs inside the hornworm, which in turn hatch inside its skin. The larvae grow, chewing through the skin, feeding on the body of the living hornworm. It's the worst kind of retribution you can imagine!"

It sounds gruesome, but put in the context of survival, it makes a lot of sense. The tobacco plant is, after all, only acting in self-defence, and the braconid wasps, being larval parasitoids, would have done it anyway. *Rhododendron ponticum*'s toxic nectar makes it a profoundly successful invasive species, killing off bees that pollinate other plants while keeping its own pollinators alive – behaviour explained by the chilling-sounding NWH: the Novel Weapons (or Chemical Weapons) hypothesis. "Some invasive plants are able to succeed in a new region or habitat because they can make ›



novel phytochemicals that are allelopathic or antimicrobial. These toxins can help overcome or even decimate other local native species,” explains Yadav, who holds a lectureship established by the University in collaboration with the Government of India Department of Biotechnology.

One suspects, sometimes, that we need plants more than they need us. After all, they support all the biological material on our planet. And we need insight into how and why plants do what they do, because big challenges lie ahead, as Professor Alison Smith, Head of the Department of Plant Sciences, points out. According to the UN, the world’s population is growing by 83 million people each year. A third of the world’s arable land has been lost to erosion and pollution in the last 40 years, while climate change, says Smith, will also impact on our ability to grow our current crops. “Plus, all our fossil fuels are from organisms which were photosynthesising, but a long time ago. We are using them up rather quickly, so it would be a good idea to find other ways of using existing organisms.”

Algae, in particular, have considerable potential. “Algae are much more diverse than plants, and much cleverer,” says Smith. “Many of them grow really fast and they have interesting behaviour – some of them are highly motile. Most importantly, they carry out half the world’s photosynthesis and production of oxygen, despite having only a fraction of the biomass of land plants. It’s often said that algae are a type of plant, but actually it’s the other way round: plants evolved from one group of green algae, so it is plants that are actually a type of algae.”

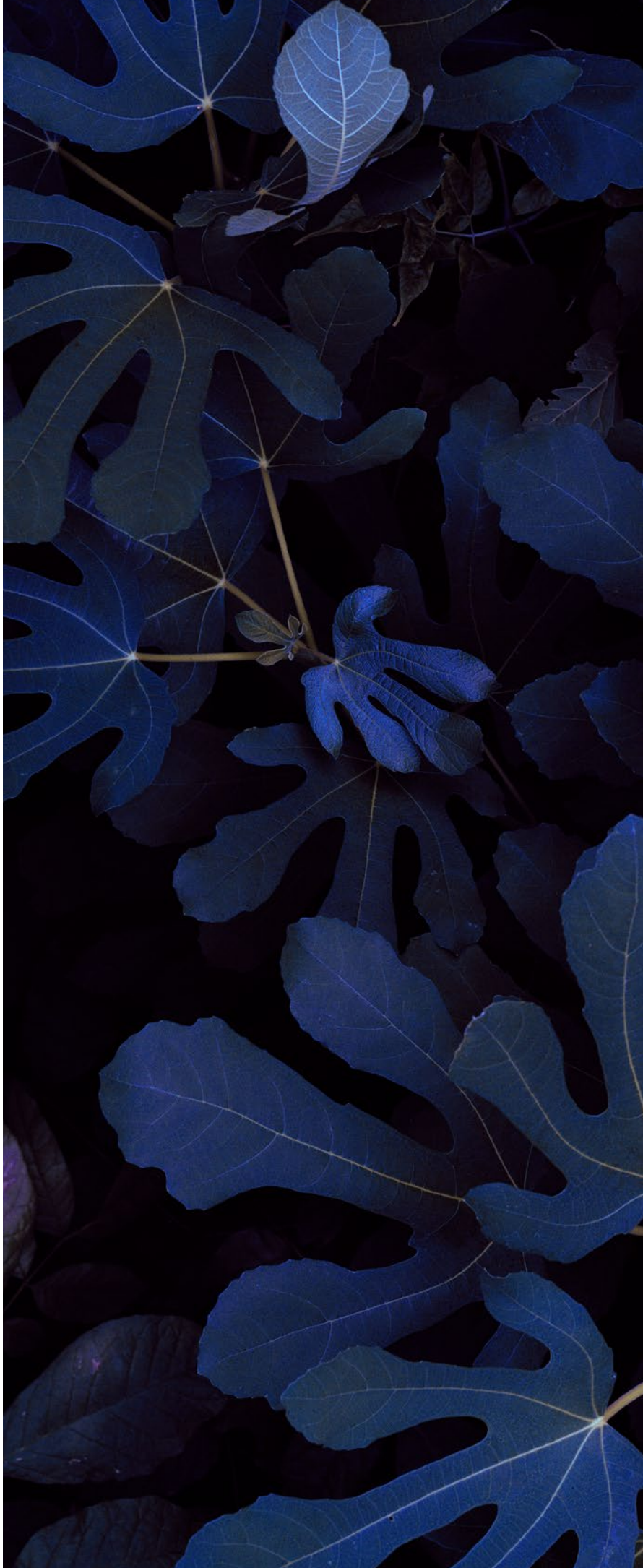
Researchers from the departments of Biochemistry, Chemistry and Physics have recently collaborated on a project to design algae-powered fuel cells. The cells exploit the fact that algae photosynthesise to convert light into electric current – which can then be used to provide electricity. Smith’s own research is examining how algae could be used to produce plant compounds that have medicinal potential.

“Many of these compounds are difficult to get directly from the plants that make them because the plants make them in small quantities – or grow in remote locations,” she explains. “Often their supply is limited. You can’t control how much they make, and you can’t necessarily get the compounds pure. These molecules are complex, so you can’t make them in the lab using chemical synthesis. But you can generate organisms in the lab to produce them instead.”

Her method involves introducing genes encoding plant enzymes into algae, either by ‘shooting’ it in, with its DNA coated on to gold particles, or by electroporation – where the cells are given an electric shock. “This is a random process, and we have to screen lots of colonies to find the ones we want,” she says. “We have just started to establish gene-editing technologies in the laboratory, and we are hopeful that we can be more precise in future so we can generate the strains we want more directly.”

But plants need our help, too. They face an endless struggle for survival: not just against manmade threats but also other plants, competing constantly for water and sunlight. And then there are the multitude of parasites and pathogens that are ranged against them – locked together in an arms race. Take the parasitic nematode worm. It lies quietly in the soil for years until a potato is planted. Then, it wakes.

“It manipulates the potato plant’s development, forcing it to grow a new pseudo-organ in the root,” explains Eves-van den Akker. “Once the potato has grown this new tissue, the worm eats it. It’s a good parasite, though. ›













**Show someone a picture of a chicken in a field of plants and ask what they see, and they'll say 'a chicken'. This is plant blindness: the inability to see or notice the plants in one's own environment**

#### **A stranger in two worlds**

The images on these pages are from George Brendan Ko's photography project *A Stranger In Two Worlds*. He says: "I remember going to an alien forest preserve in Kula and there was an illustration of an ancient Hawaiian landscape. It looked like another world with species of plants that were completely foreign to me because they were either extinct or endangered and rare to encounter."

It won't kill its host. It causes damage not just by eating the pseudo-organ but also by amplifying other problems. Above ground, the plant might look as if it's stressed by drought or chlorosis, when it goes yellow. The only way you can identify it is to dig it up – and farmers are particularly reluctant to dig things up before harvest." Once a field has been infected, it's recommended not to grow potatoes there for another eight years.

Eves-van den Akker says, at the moment, his research is concentrating on the fundamentals of how the worm does this – and his team has just had a breakthrough. For the first time, they have identified and opened what they call the nematode's 'toolbox' – a salivary gland from where it secretes its molecules into the host plant. "There's at least one species of nematode for every major crop of the world, so you can make a pretty strong case to explore any aspect of that biology that may, one day, lead to a solution."

And Yadav, too, stresses that she is on the side of the plants. She spent her childhood in and around the sacred groves of north-east India, where religious traditions have created pristine havens of biodiversity. Plants were an integral part of her life, from walks with her mother looking for rare orchids growing in crumbling colonial bungalows, to counting fern-fronds with her sisters. Now, as a specialist in comparative genomics and phytochemistry, she's working towards making plants more efficient producers.

"Green plants harvest sunlight and, in the process, they split water and fix atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> into organic carbon, which in turn helps them grow and create more biomass," she explains. "This process requires an enzyme called RuBP Carboxylase Oxygenase [RuBisCO], arguably the most abundant protein on Earth. RuBisCO is often considered the interface of living and non-living, since it is the primary carbon-fixing enzyme on the planet. All life forms on Earth are made up of organic carbon."

But RuBisCO's abundance is linked to its inefficiency in fixing carbon – this is why plants make so much of it to compensate. "And it often gets confused between molecules of CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>, almost like dialling a wrong number!" says Yadav.

Her group is collaborating with teams led by Professor Howard Griffiths and Professor Julian Hibberd to investigate plants that have evolved innovative carbon concentrating mechanisms (CCMs) to overcome the inefficiency of RuBisCO over millions of years, such as some members of the grass family, and, of course, the ever-efficient green algae. She's currently studying the unicellular green alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, nicknamed Chlamy. Chlamy has evolved a CCM that exists within a tiny compartment, called the pyrenoid. More efficient RuBisCO could mean a jump of up to 50 per cent in biomass: an incredible leap for crop productivity and food security.

And, of course, plants are beautiful, enhancing our lives in ways we rarely realise. "I consider plants one of the most advanced forms of life on the planet, all the more so in terms of their ability to communicate, and to recognise other organisms, mediating complex interactions with birds, insects and the environment," says Yadav. The Nobel prize winner Barbara McClintock has called plants 'thoughtful', and Aristotle wondered about their complex inner lives. They are endlessly fascinating. There will always be so many more of their stories to discover. ☺

*To find out more, visit [plantsci.cam.ac.uk](http://plantsci.cam.ac.uk). To find out more about electric algae, visit [cam.ac.uk/algaepower](http://cam.ac.uk/algaepower). To read more about plant blindness, visit [tinyurl.com/ycerz6f5](http://tinyurl.com/ycerz6f5).*





# Brexit is the biggest crisis since the second world war, and it's in my field. I want to talk about it now, not analyse what went wrong in 20 years' time.

**Professor Catherine Barnard, Professor of EU Law and Senior Tutor at Trinity, explains why law underpins every aspect of how Brexit will play out.**

WORDS CATHERINE GALLOWAY PHOTOGRAPHY DAN BURN-FORTI

“It looks as though we’ve had a particularly raucous party in here, but I assure you we haven’t!” Catherine Barnard’s rooms at Trinity do indeed resemble a cross between a campaign headquarters on election night and the aftermath of one of the better kinds of Formal Hall. She laughs as she ushers out a colleague on College business, sweeps past a huge table piled with half-eaten sandwiches and cake, answers a call from *The Independent* newspaper looking for a quote, and leaves her door, appropriately, wide open.

We’re here to talk about Barnard’s specialism – European Union law – a subject that has become an extremely hot potato in the wake of a certain election night in June 2016. It put Barnard on the frontline. EU law is unique in the international legal order, governing, as it does, 28 (soon 27) vastly different countries at once. It is dense and difficult. So, it is with admirable understatement that she says: “I believe in trying to communicate about law as simply as possible, and Brexit has required that in spades.”

The issue has divided the nation and politics. Numerous Conservative ministers have resigned, some because they believe passionately that the Brexit the Government is planning is too hard, and others that it is too soft. The Labour Party is no less divided. And as we go to press, commentators agree mostly only that the Government’s negotiating position

is unclear. So how do you even start to deal with that in legal terms? Barnard nods. “It’s really difficult. The text of the Withdrawal Agreement is 585 pages long, and that’s just the divorce... so, it’s very likely that the future deal will run into thousands of pages.”

Again, as we go to press, the divorce agreement is the only legally binding document that the UK will have in hand on ‘Brexit Day’ itself, and it covers three key areas: money, citizens’ rights and the Irish border question. And from 29 March onwards, and until those thousands of final deal pages are written, the UK will still be bound by laws it has rejected and decisions it no longer has a say in – or, in the case of no deal, a whole other set of agreements potentially built on WTO trading arrangements.

The job of reading mountains of small print, untangling the issues and then explaining it to the rest of us is one Barnard relishes. But what led her here in the first place?

Barnard smiles and admits to “a youthful sense of social injustice” before going on to mention her “inspirational” headteacher, Walter Roy, at Hewett School in Norwich. “I remember an MP came to visit who was talking quite a lot of nonsense and Mr Roy stood up, stopped the MP and said ‘Look, these are bright students, they need a straight answer.’” So straight-talking feels not just familiar, but right? “Yes, it is sort of what I do now.” ›



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## All the discussion about having your cake and eating it, with ministers saying we will be in a better position post-Brexit, has hidden the truth of the matter

Most of the talking nowadays comes via Barnard's role as Senior Fellow at The UK in a Changing Europe. This programme, run by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), is designed to bring together impartial academic research on the changing UK-EU relationship and, crucially, to make it accessible and available to everyone.

Barnard initially applied for the project in 2015, intending to research the experience of migrants to the UK and whether or not it was a desire to claim benefits that drew them to the UK. Once in post, she was warned there would be "a bit of public engagement", but she quickly realised that outreach events and the attendant social media work would turn out to be the most essential part of her role.

"Being public about Brexit has put me in quite difficult positions at times, and of course it's not what academics normally do, so it's also a different way of doing academia," she says. "But I would say that Brexit is the biggest crisis facing the country since the second world war and it's in my field. I think it's important to be out there talking about it now – rather than writing a learned book in 20 years' time discussing what went wrong."

Leavers point to two particular aspects of EU law as contentious; interestingly, these are precisely the areas Barnard finds most exciting. "First, EU law has direct effect, which means it is enforceable by individuals in national courts and they don't have to wait for the state to intervene on their behalf. Second, it has supremacy over national law, which means it takes precedence over conflicting national law. Both of these have enabled lawyers to do creative things to bring about change in the domestic system."

But these days it's not just the lawyers getting 'creative' with interpreting Brussels and its regulations. Writing recently in *The Guardian*, Barnard noted that "everyone's an expert on the EU now that the UK is leaving". I suggest that for someone who actually is an expert on the EU, that must be irritating. Does she find herself shouting at the television?

"The ones I tend to shout at are the politicians, on both sides, who say a string of things, each one legally incorrect and often inconsistent. Even the Prime Minister insists that, with her deal, we would no longer be under the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice, but there are 70 references to the Court of Justice in the Withdrawal Agreement. And David Davis said that we'd have the future deal done by 29 March 2019, but that was never going to be the case. And, likewise, doing deals with other countries: Liam Fox said we'd have 40 or so deals rolled over by 29 March. Only a handful have been delivered. These are politicians who have a lot to answer for, because they told the public this would be easy. And the trouble is that all the discussion about having your cake and eating it, with ministers saying we will be in a better position

post-Brexit, has hidden the truth of the matter." Although her outreach work, legal training and teaching require her to be strictly impartial, it is on the truth of this matter that Barnard's other day job comes into play.

"As Senior Tutor at Trinity I'm responsible for the admission, welfare and graduation of 1,100 students. I'm also responsible for the appointment of all our teaching fellows. We have some outstandingly good EU students here – but if you're a brilliant Hungarian mathematician, do you come to Cambridge where, post-Brexit, you may have to pay overseas fees and go through a visa process that is unpleasant, or do you go to the US where there is still the unpleasant visa process but you'll have a lot of money thrown at you too? Or, do you go to Germany where it's frictionless?"

The visa regime for EU nationals is currently non-existent, and Cambridge has been part of a pilot scheme for UK universities where academics already in post can apply smoothly for indefinite leave to remain (this scheme has now been opened up to all EU migrants). Nonetheless, Barnard admits that the shape of post-Brexit immigration policy does keep her awake at night.

"For Cambridge, the *best* future immigration policy is one as close as possible to what we've got at the moment, but that's not what's being proposed. And the biggest sales pitch that Theresa May has got, and it's the number one issue she mentions every time she's trying to sell the Brexit deal, is 'We're bringing an end to free movement'. Now while I fully accept that for some people this is really important, and indeed it's probably the main reason why people voted to leave, for a world-ranking university like Cambridge free movement has been absolutely crucial to our success. So we have got to find a way to remain attractive to staff and students alike. We are doing a lot of thinking about this now."

Over the past two and a half years, Brexit, in a deeply British way, has provided ample doses of the surreal, the chaotic and the confusing. But with the digital counter on the homepage of The UK in a Changing Europe ticking inexorably down to exit day itself, I ask Barnard if she can have a stab at predicting how it will all end? "Leaving the EU is obviously causing a lot of difficulties, but actually reconstructing some sort of relationship will also raise a lot of interesting legal issues, not to mention the social and economic consequences," she says.

Her work, therefore, may have only just begun. And her next appointment is already knocking at the door of her office. But we have a final attempt at summing up. Brexit in five words or fewer? Already on the move, Barnard offers three: "Complex. Vertiginous. Divisive." ☛

To read the latest analysis and FAQs from the University and academics, please visit: [cam.ac.uk/brexit](http://cam.ac.uk/brexit).



**W H E N  
H E A V Y  
M E T A L  
M E T  
K A N T  
(A N D M E)**













**I was a dedicated and unapologetic metalhead for about four or five years. I'm nearly 40 now. But I find myself drawn back to metal, both as music to enjoy, and as a way to ask questions about criticism, critical judgment and how taste is formed**

#### Defenders of the Faith

Oregon-based photographer Peter Beste says that his work seeks to portray subculture communities as they express themselves, without reference to outside opinions or ideologies. His book, *Defenders of the Faith*, from which these images are taken, is to be published later this year.

or perhaps, actually maintaining a secret devotion to the tastes and preferences of their untutored youth. On the one hand, Kant wants to maintain a role in his new aesthetics for older views of taste that put considerable emphasis on the authority of ancient, commonly accepted models; on the other hand, he never quite comes out and says that the youthful poet is bound to reject his early attempts at poetry. Perhaps, he sticks to his view that those poems are good; perhaps the self-appointed arbiters of taste are wrong; or perhaps, no matter how much practice at forming critical judgments he has, he just can't shift his initial devotion to his early works. Perhaps, then, my devotion to heavy metal is not going to budge, no matter how hard I try to shift it with years of cultivation and critical reflection.

So, heavy metal troubles in various ways the idea that judgments of taste are subjective but shareable. In contrast, perhaps, it also explodes the alleged post-Romantic indifference to genre. Where Romanticism is often held to have inaugurated an epoch of freer artistic creation, dispensing with observance of established conventions of specific genres as a condition of artistic excellence, heavy metal is amazingly generically differentiated: there's thrash, speed, death, stoner, sludge, groove, nu (or is that nü?), doom, progressive, extreme, traditional – and that's just for starters. And, of course, the elemental difference between heavy metal and hard rock is crucial to the whole enterprise.

Another principle I've adhered to for a long time – but have come to rethink as I rediscover the roots of my own interest in questions of judgment, taste and criticism) – is that the ethical, political or religious content of a work of art is distinctly secondary to its status as a work of art. Indeed, in my peak heavy metal years, I agonised over what real and uncontrollable effects listening to the nastier end of metal might have on me. I was anxious about listening to Slayer's *Hell Awaits* on a Sunday (I wasn't comforted by my mother's anti-sabbatarian remark that it didn't matter what day you listened to it). And I once put the loss of my tram ticket, apprehension by the ticket inspector and £10 fine (a painfully large sum to a teenager in the early 90s) down to the fact that on that particular trip into Manchester I'd bought a cassette of Obituary's surely satanic album *World Demise*. ›



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## I was anxious about listening to Slayer's *Hell Awaits* on a Sunday and took little comfort from my mother's remarking that it really didn't matter what day you listened to it

It wasn't that I thought I was going to become a wicked person and go on a murderous rampage as a consequence of listening to this music (although, again, neither do I think that being worried about the fact that this does appear to happen to some people should be dismissed). It was rather that I imagined that listening to Slayer, Obituary, anything at the death-y, Satan-y end of the spectrum, was *in itself* wrong and was going to bring down on me the workings of some form of divine judgment.

Connected to this unease is the fact that I did most of my heavy metal listening in my mother's flat in a nice suburb with a large Jewish population in north Manchester. And so it made my mother particularly uneasy that I wanted to wear T-shirts with drawings of skulls and piles of bodies on them. She was right to be uneasy, and I think that my sense of the complexities involved in the artistic depiction of cruelty and carnage – a problem that has exercised both classical and modern thinkers – has its roots not in Aristotle or Edmund Burke or Kant, but in heavy metal.

The American writer Maggie Nelson has written that "the spectre [...] of our (live) flesh one day turning into (dead) meat [...] is a shadow that accompanies us throughout our lives". It is a shadow that is cast on a grand scale by the pyrotechnic glow of heavy metal, whose whole aesthetic resonates with Nelson's at once ghostly and fleshy

description. So, one question any serious criticism of heavy metal must confront is whether its awareness of the fate of 'our' flesh turns too often into a macabre glee at the – again, real and imagined – fate of the flesh of others.

All critics must attempt to think through the emergence and development of their own critical preoccupations, but somewhat disturbingly, even a cursory examination of my love of metal seems to overturn a number of critical tenets I've long held central to my own research and thinking.

Perhaps more reassuring is the fact that it was in relation to heavy metal lyrics that I first practised what I can now recognise as 'close reading' – that mainstay of 'Cambridge English'. To be sure, devotees of other musical forms could say the same thing about, for example, rap or folk and their subgenres. But it isn't just because heavy metal bands have a habit of invoking Coleridge and Tennyson (as Iron Maiden have done) or, indeed, of setting Schopenhauer and Schelling to music (as the fittingly named Obscura do) that I think they're especially conducive to the formation of philosophically inclined literary critics.

It was in heavy metal that I first encountered many, to my youthful eye, unheralded words – words like 'avidity', 'mandatory', 'foreclosure', as well as a whole range of doubtless misused military, theological and medical terminology. This was not least the case in the music of the British heavy metal band Carcass (surely, by the way, the best band ever to have come from Liverpool), whose lead singer wrote lyrics by means of obsessive recourse to the medical dictionary he borrowed from his sister who was training to be a nurse.

Still, it's probably a good thing that someone who spent his teenage years listening to songs like Corporal Jigsoe Quandary and Ruptured in Purulence was inspired to become a literary critic rather than, let's say, a doctor. ☺

*Dr Ross Wilson is a Fellow of Trinity and an unashamed metalhead.*





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## When political leaders steal from their nation's coffers the theft is called kleptocracy. Professor Jason Sharman explains why the recent international crackdown could be revolutionary.

WORDS PROFESSOR JASON SHARMAN

PHOTOGRAPHY WILLIAM CLOWES



I have spent the past 10 years investigating kleptocracy. The word means literally, rule by thieves, and describes the specific corruption that occurs when state leaders, generally from poorer countries, routinely loot millions or even billions of dollars from their national treasuries. All too often, the money is spent or stashed in rich countries. And until very recently, rich countries had no moral or legal obligation to do anything about these flows of dirty money.

What does kleptocracy look like? Imagine a nation rich in natural resources. Multinationals vie with each other for government contracts to exploit these resources and, as the years go by, money – large sums of money – begins to pour into the state coffers. Per capita GDP goes through the roof. Yet mysteriously, the population continues to live in poverty. State services remain non-existent. Medicine is scarce. Malnutrition becomes commonplace.

Are you wondering where that imaginary country's money has got to? Finding the answer is simple. Shift your attention to the world's financial capitals – London, New York, Geneva and their associated playgrounds – and search for the family name of its leader and the answer is clear. You read in a national newspaper that the country's leader is buying a \$40m mansion in London (purchased alongside a \$30m beach house in the south of France and a \$50m estate in the Hamptons). The Instagram feed of the leader's daughter features exotic holidays, designer handbags and private jets. In New York, a bidder 'known to be close to' the leader is revealed to have spent more than \$50m on fine art and memorabilia at auction. 'Following the money' demonstrates theft on a frankly unimaginable scale.

But now, for the first time in history, there is a public consensus that for a state to host money stolen by an official of another state is morally wrong. Furthermore, an elaborate system of conventions, treaties, laws and regulations have institutionalised this principle. Of course, many more corrupt leaders get away with their crimes than face justice. But nonetheless, the expectation that host countries have a duty to take action to block or seize their illicit funds is a new and, in many ways, really remarkable development. Rather than lecture poor foreign governments about the error of their ways, rich countries are inviting scrutiny from international organisations and peer countries of their own performance in the sensitive areas of money laundering and corruption.

This runs contrary to the doctrine of sovereign immunity (whereby individual state leaders cannot be prosecuted by third countries for acts committed in office). It runs against conventional ideas of national interest (as one interviewee put it to me: "Belgian cops are paid with Belgian taxes to solve Belgian problems" – not crimes ›



### **Mobutu's palace**

These images, taken by journalist William Clowes, show the abandoned palace compound of Mobutu Sese Seko, who ruled Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) between 1965 and 1997.

committed by political leaders abroad). And it runs counter to the interests of perhaps the most powerful business lobby of all: the finance sector. So why has kleptocracy come into focus?

It is tempting to explain large-scale international moral and legal transformations by focusing on small, dedicated groups of pioneering activists. These activists are said to both prick the conscience of policy makers and provide a blueprint for reform. And it is certainly true that campaigning NGOs such as Transparency International and Global Witness have played an important role.

But I believe that deep, structural change has been key. The fall of the Soviet Union removed the need to support corrupt anti-Communist client governments, and agreement among development experts and policymakers that corruption causes poverty provided an essential backdrop. So, while individual scandals revealing the presence of dirty foreign money have created media and political pressure on host governments to take action, it is the background conditions that help to explain why the campaign against kleptocracy resulted in action.

### **Is cracking down on kleptocracy worthwhile?**

Fighting kleptocracy through asset recovery is said to be worthwhile for three main reasons: it provides new money for development in poor countries; it deters would-be corrupt officials and associated money launderers; and it satisfies the desire for accountability among those in victim countries.

After all the evidence is considered, how well do these claims stack up? First, the money. If something around \$5bn of looted wealth has been repatriated, this might seem to be a substantial benefit (even if it represents only a small fraction of the total stolen). Unfortunately, however, this headline figure does not take into account legal fees, investigative expenses or the fact that repatriated assets are often stolen again after they have been returned to the victim government. In practice, the real financial rewards of asset recovery are meagre.

Has the anti-kleptocracy regime dissuaded senior political officials from stealing public wealth and laundering it outside their own country? The evidence does not permit an answer, but with the low chance of being caught, it might be a leap of faith to assume it has. It is possible that certain financial centres may have deterred corrupt officials from placing their money there, though even here the evidence is scarce. Indeed, the mobility of capital could mean a displacement of corruption-related money laundering to a less scrupulous centre (Dubai and Latvia being regularly mentioned as such havens among interviewees), rather than a reduction.

The final payoff is said to be political: demonstrating to victim populations that, sometimes at least, there is justice, and corrupt and tyrannical leaders can be held to account. When corrupt officials are still in power, or efforts to hold them accountable at home have failed, attacking their wealth in host countries may be the only recourse left. Here, the campaign against kleptocracy looks to be on firmer ground. But I would argue that important symbolic verdicts of condemnation and shaming might be achieved more effectively and far more cheaply.

If the effectiveness of the current anti-kleptocracy regime is low, if the rules fail more often than they succeed, and if the costs too often outweigh the benefits, what, if anything, can be done? I believe there are measures that can improve the status quo. Though jointly radical, ›





**Of course, many more corrupt leaders get away with their crimes than face justice. But the expectation that host countries have a duty to take action is a new and, in many ways, really remarkable development**





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## Watch this space. The combination of global rules legislated ‘from above’ with a powerful upsurge of demands for accountability ‘from below’ brings with it the potential for widescale and unpredictable change

each of these suggestions is based on policies that in some form are already in place. These measures are relatively cheap and would improve the effectiveness of the fight against grand corruption. The goal is not so much to boost narrow measures like the number of convictions, or the amounts of money confiscated and repatriated. Instead, it is to advance the broader policy goals of making it harder for kleptocrats to launder the proceeds of their corruption in major financial centres and to promote accountability where there otherwise would be none.

### Improving outcomes

Preventive measures are far more cost-effective than remedial action to find, seize and return plundered wealth. So, I would begin with better enforcement: actually checking that firms are following the laws and regulations they should be and applying substantial penalties to those that aren't. It might be thought that this point is too obvious to mention, but my research found that regulators often do not check on compliance or do so by simply asking firms whether they are complying. Even when regulators check performance independently, outside the United States they almost never apply meaningful sanctions for those violating the rules. Where foreign corruption proceeds are found, typically after a regime has fallen, authorities should conduct a full inquiry to find out how illicit funds entered the financial system, and punish those private parties at fault.

Second, I believe that traditional domestic tax powers and new international tax agreements have great potential for tracing and seizing illicit funds. For example, if a kleptocrat has a foreign bank account, it probably earns interest, and failure to report this interest may constitute tax evasion. Tax laws also commonly require that foreign bank accounts, assets and income are declared in the home country – a requirement that corrupt officials seldom meet. And because tax evasion is increasingly a predicate crime for money laundering, these laws may be brought into play as well. Tax authorities can often confiscate assets without having to go to court through raising tax assessments directly against individuals and companies, and, unlike the case for police forces, financial investigation and confiscating wealth from tight-fisted owners are tax agencies' core functions.

Third are a number of interrelated direct state approaches. These include visa denials, blacklisting and targeted financial sanctions. Denying entry to senior foreign officials on the grounds of suspected corruption was pioneered in the United States by presidential decree before being legislated in 2008. Since that time, the G8 and the G20 have endorsed visa denials for officials suspected of corruption. Although not technically ‘following the money’, visa bans are important in cramping kleptocrats' proclivity for conspicuous consumption in rich countries. Such bans isolate these officials from their real estate abroad. Visa denials are cheap and legally easy to enforce, so it is eminently practical to use them more often.

From drawing up a list of those barred from entering a country, it is only a short step to a more comprehensive blacklist of suspected kleptocrats, or even whole governments. These lists would be public

and could augment the visa ban by blocking access to a country's financial system. There are many state precedents (governments have long used economic sanctions as an instrument of statecraft) but – and this is my fourth proposal, aimed at non-state actors – it may even be possible to have an effective global kleptocracy blacklist of states without any government involvement at all. Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index has achieved wide acceptance as a credible and authoritative measure of corruption (rightly or wrongly) among a wide range of intergovernmental organisations, governments and private actors. Banks already use this index when assessing client risk. Considering the demand for risk-rating information, a kleptocracy blacklist created by a respected NGO could enjoy wide currency and impact among crucial private sector intermediaries.

A more innovative strategy would be for NGOs to take direct action to attack kleptocrats' wealth. A variety of French groups have publicised the plundered wealth Francophone African leaders have placed in France, but then successfully used the court system to challenge the French government's inaction and bring criminal charges themselves.

Common-law systems are somewhat less hospitable for these kinds of actions, but even here there are precedents. After the UK government dropped a bribery investigation into British Aerospace Systems in late 2006, the NGOs The Corner House and the Campaign Against Arms Trade took court action to force the government to reopen the investigation. Dismissed as a “hopeless challenge brought by a group of tree-hugging hippies”, the case was won by the two groups in 2008, though it was later overturned on appeal.

### Revolutionary possibilities

If the cause of fighting grand corruption came on to the agenda thanks to a confluence of unanticipated events and trends, its future is correspondingly hard to predict. Yet in a world where kleptocracy is unremarkable, holding individual leaders accountable for corruption crimes committed in office is a revolutionary idea that undermines centuries of accepted practice and conventional wisdom. It has the potential to transform international diplomacy and world politics more broadly. People across every continent are less and less likely to see elite corruption as either acceptable or inevitable. Many regimes have been brought down by corruption, and even powerful autocracies such as China and Russia fear the depth of popular discontent with a ruling class intent on feathering its own nest. So, watch this space. The combination of global rules legislated ‘from above’ with a powerful upsurge of demands for accountability ‘from below’ could mean that, over the long term, the anti-kleptocracy regime may have greater significance than either its most enthusiastic supporters or most critical detractors currently anticipate. ©

*This feature is an extract from The Despot's Guide to Wealth Management: On the International Campaign against Grand Corruption, by Jason Sharman, Sir Patrick Sheehy Professor of International Relations. Used with kind permission of the publisher, Cornell University Press. All rights reserved.*



# CAMBRIDGE MILL

## From the General Strike to the campaign to ban Sainsbury's, Mill Road has long provided a home to Cambridge's radicals.

WORDS WILLIAM HAM BEVAN PHOTOGRAPHY NIALL McDIARMID

Like many hundreds of undergraduates before him, Dan Ross (Downing 1994) began most evenings during his second year by walking home across Parker's Piece, via Reality Checkpoint, to a rented house on Mill Road – a place he describes as “a five-minute walk, and a world apart, from College”.

A mile-long byway linking central Cambridge to the ring road, Mill Road has a strong claim to be the most famous street outside the orbit of the University. It forms the spine of two distinct communities, Petersfield and Romsey Town, separated by the railway bridge. Petersfield, on the west side, was developed in the early 19th century on land owned by the Colleges, and a good deal of its early residents had a connection to the University. Romsey, over to the east, grew to house workers on the new railway, whose solidarity and socialist beliefs invited the nicknames of ‘Red Romsey’ and ‘Little Russia’. What the two neighbourhoods have in common is a sense of being separated from (and ignored by) the Cambridge better known to the outside world.

Caroline Wilson (Newnham 1963), a Petersfield resident and secretary of the Mill Road History Society, says: “The town and University found it convenient to locate there everything they didn't want to have to think about: the cemetery, the workhouse, the hospital for infectious diseases and, of course, the railway. One of the reasons we set up

the Mill Road History Project was to redress the balance between the well-documented history of the University and this fascinating but neglected part of town.”

Over recent decades, Mill Road has variously been portrayed as a thriving stronghold of bohemianism, cultural diversity and independent traders, and as an example of urban dilapidation dubbed ‘the Street of Fear’ in the *Cambridge News*. But all the while, it has maintained its reputation for radicalism, protest and political dissent. Indeed, it was where Ross gained an introduction to activism, mid-90s style. He says: “I played chess at CB1 Café with a guy who presented himself as working class one minute and as an idle playboy aristocrat the next. It turned out he was a Hungarian count.

“The next time I saw him was in London. I had unwittingly driven into the middle of a protest that was turning into a riot. A large group had closed down the street and were smashing things up, and there he was in the middle of it, playing the ringleader. Luckily, he recognised me and waved me through. Of course, he then disappeared as I drove on, leaving an angry mob to throw plastic furniture at my car until I put on some dub music and they chilled out. Good times!”

After often visiting friends on Mill Road as freshers, Chloe Houston and Claire Hanley ›



# ROAD







(Robinson 1997) spent their second year living at a College-owned house at number 72 – as the anti-car, anti-globalisation Reclaim the Streets movement was gaining momentum.

“We went along to events and said approving things, but didn’t really take part,” says Hanley. “I was still a Cambridge student at heart, not wanting to get into trouble. But I loved living on Mill Road. It was a real community, and a bit bohemian. You’d get to know the people in the café, the Salvation Army shop and the organic food store, and there were artists and poetry readings.”

“I remember the events where everyone sat in the street and chalked the pavements,” says Houston. “I’d grown up in Leamington Spa, which was quite sheltered: there was certainly nothing of that sort going on there.”

Countless students have dipped a toe into activism while living on Mill Road. But for over a century, other members of the University have involved themselves more wholeheartedly,

entangling different strands of social reformist zeal from town and gown, as Mary Burgess, local studies assistant at Cambridgeshire county council, explains. “You get quite a lot of students, particularly from about 1908 to 1913, being interested in the town,” she says. “A book by the social reformer Eglantyne Jebb had come out in 1906 about conditions in the city, and a lot of the University people were shocked about how much poverty there was – particularly when they started going out and seeing what things were really like.”

At the turn of the 20th century, Mill Road was at the centre of Cambridge’s movement for women’s suffrage. Burgess believes the earliest meetings took place in 1906 at the Lodge, a liberal magistrate’s house on the site of the Broadway in Romsey. She says: “Lots of people used that house for meetings, but particularly the Women’s Suffrage Association. In 1913 they put on a suffrage pageant called *Britannia’s Daughters* with some parts played by students from Girton and Newnham.”

**01**  
**Cycle mechanic, Greg Coleman**  
**at Greg’s Cycles, 186 Mill Road**

“I’ve been here for 37 years. You used to get a lot more variety on the street, in the shops. It’s all gone downhill now.”

**02**  
**Butchers Mikey Malloy (right) with**  
**Dan Northrop at Mill Road Butchers,**  
**114 Mill Road**

Malloy: “I started working here when I was 12 and I’ve got customers I had then who still come in now. Everyone knows our names.”

**03**  
**Chef Elif Karagoz, at Cham Cafe,**  
**54 Mill Road**

“Cooking is my hobby. I love it. And I love seeing people enjoying my food!”





**04**  
**Hannah Bousfield (Newnham),**  
**second-year Philosophy student**

"It's diverse on Mill Road. I like it: there are lots of different shops, cultures, people and things going on. You feel more free living out of halls."

**05**  
**Abdul Kayum Arain at Al Amin**  
**supermarket, 100-102 Mill Road**

"We have Nobel prize winners here, and we have people whose lives are on the street. Both are equally regarded as stakeholders in the Mill Road community. There is a sense of fraternity, neighbourhood, family."

**06**  
**Shopper Mary Trend crossing**  
**the Mill Road railway bridge**

"Actually, I went to Oxford..."



## Of course, he then disappeared, leaving the mob to throw plastic furniture at my car until I put on some dub music and they chilled out. Good times!

A pivotal figure in the movement was Clara Rackham (Newnham 1895) known as Millicent Fawcett's right-hand woman at the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. After failing to become an MP, she concentrated her efforts on local politics, becoming one of the town's first female magistrates, a long-serving councillor (representing Romsey from 1929) and a tireless campaigner for educational and penal reform. Records suggest she spoke at length at a 1909 meeting at Mill Road Baptist Church jointly convened by the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association and the University Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

She was also a driving force in the establishment of a Labour Club on Mill Road. "Romsey was where

they put the Labour Club because it was the place of greatest Labour support," says Dr Deborah Thom, Fellow and Director of Studies for History and Sociology at Robinson. "The housing down there was by and large rented by working-class people who were employed by the railways."

Rackham's name also crops up in accounts of the General Strike of 1926 in Cambridge. Her fellow social reformer, Leah Manning (Homerton 1906), mentions in her autobiography that the strike committee would meet in Rackham's kitchen. They were helped by a group of undergraduates who would arrive each evening to distribute the strike bulletin, but whose attitude was not typical of the University as a whole. »



The Cambridge committee was helped by a group of undergraduates who would arrive each evening to distribute the strike bulletin



**07**  
**Liz Ells is a Mill Road resident and works at the Wood Green charity shop on Mill Road**

**08**  
**Manager Kyle Dowling at the Devonshire Arms, off Mill Road**

"I love the people on Mill Road. Everyone's a character. There's always a new story. People sit at the bar and talk: there is never silence."

**09**  
**Jane Andrews at Relevant Record Café, 260 Mill Road, with her gluten- and dairy-free apple and almond cake**

"There's a lovely community feel here. We've got lots of regular customers and loads going on."



Caroline Wilson notes that while almost all Romsey's railwaymen participated in the strike, the Colleges supplied an enthusiastic corps of young men who were keen to serve as strike-breakers and would be collected from the Backs each day in a convoy of motor cars. Dr Thom says: "There were some undergraduates who participated on the side of the strikers, but not nearly as many as those who went up to London and wanted to drive trains. It is said that the Colleges agreed that their members would be allowed to participate in strike breaking if they weren't expected to get a First."

The students' efforts could be catastrophically inept. In May 1926, students derailed a train near the Mill Road bridge, and hundreds of striking railway workers turned out to jeer. The *Cambridge Chronicle* made clear where its sympathies lay, referring to the undergraduates as "the gallant 600" and castigating the strikers for "smiling and chaffing" while another accident was taking place up the line at Bishop Stortford – this one causing the

death of a passenger. Wilson points out that "nowhere is it recognised that incompetence on the part of the volunteer undergraduate drivers must have caused both accidents".

Throughout the 20th century, the social make-up of Mill Road began to change. Dr Thom says: "From the 1960s, it becomes an area where you get radicals of a rather different sort, because Cambridge has always been expensive, and it was the area where housing was most affordable. People start buying houses in Mill Road rather than renting them. It means there's also a thriving community of shops. It's an area where people both live and work, unlike west Cambridge."

Most recently, activism has been concerned with preserving the local environment, and particularly with opposing the chain stores that have started to move in among the independent retailers. One of the campaign's most vocal proponents has been Abdul Arain, owner of Al Amin grocery store on the western side of the railway bridge and an associate





chaplain at Anglia Ruskin University. He says: “A lot of high streets are, for want of a better word, dying. We find that a lot of the multiples, the national chains, move into smaller high-street premises because it’s very lucrative for them with their huge buying power and deep pockets. They threaten the vibrancy of communities: there’s a disconnect between the neighbourhood and those who own the shops, and profits go away to the shareholders.”

In 2011, Arain stood against Lord Sainsbury for the Chancellorship of the University, in opposition to plans for a Sainsbury’s Local on Mill Road. Though the store eventually opened, he gained more than five per cent of votes cast and a great deal of publicity for the cause. “We’ve had a lot of success because people of all kinds believe in this community,” he says. “I don’t just mean different nationalities. People from all walks of life make up Mill Road, town and gown: workers, students, professors and people working for organisations like the Medical Research Council or AstraZeneca.”

For those fighting to keep the area’s distinctiveness, chain stores represent just one threat. In university towns around Britain, the past decade has seen property developers rush to create more purpose-built student housing – something opponents say can upset the demographic balance of whole neighbourhoods.

Many of those who passed through Mill Road on the way to a degree, whether politically engaged or not, would agree that Cambridge stands to lose something special if the road becomes another identikit high street. Dan Ross says: “Mill Road showed us that there was a city beyond the transitory population of students. You got to see the University from the perspective of people who grew up in Cambridge and had lived there all their lives.” ©

*For more information and research from the Mill Road History Society, see [capturingcambridge.org](http://capturingcambridge.org) and [millroadhistory.org.uk](http://millroadhistory.org.uk).*

**10**  
**Neil Donovan, delivery driver**  
**for the Salvation Army, 44 Mill Road**

“I love my job. I love meeting people and talking to them, and perhaps you can help them, too.”

**11**  
**Tariq Malik, local resident**

“I get on with people. That’s my job. I work for Allah, so I thought I’d work direct.”

**12**  
**Charmaine Wilson, manager,**  
**Salvation Army, 44 Mill Road**

“We’re about to move to Tennyson Road, next to the church, but we all love the Mill Road building. It has a lot of character. All the volunteers say it’s haunted, though I’ve never seen anything.”





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## Life in the grad lane

Grad students are the lifeblood – and future – of the University. So what attracts the world's very best to Cambridge? Academic excitement, a global perspective – and outstanding student support.



Casey Millward, Carol Ibe and Francis Heil at the UL

**T**alk to graduate students about their impressions of Cambridge life and one word keeps coming up: global. “There are 27 students in my class and 23 nationalities,” says Francis Heil (Hughes Hall, MPhil, Engineering for Sustainable Development). “We really benefit from the experience and knowledge people bring in from their home countries, and from their work.”

Born in the US and raised in Nigeria, Carol Ibe (Newnham, PhD, Plant Sciences) is studying the impact of fungi on rice at the University. As a Gates Scholar, she is encouraged to use her skills in the real world. “I’ve had a lot of opportunity to do extracurricular work, which the scholarship really encourages,” she says. “I’ve started a life science company, providing biotechnology and life science education and training, and lab capacity building programmes for students, educators and scientists in Africa.”

Casey Millward (St Edmund’s, MPhil, Public Policy) has spent the past 12 years working in Australian public service, specialising in education and

employment policy. Millward is an Indigenous Australian and came to Cambridge as the holder of the Charlie Perkins Scholarship (honouring the first Indigenous Australian man to graduate). “I visited universities in the US and UK,” she says. “After that, it had to be Cambridge. I just got a good vibe from it. It felt like somewhere I could fit in.” Francis Heil is a Patrick Moore Cambridge Australia Scholar (funded in partnership with the Cambridge Trust) and says simply: “The scholarship made Cambridge possible.”

All three are hoping to use their learning to make the world a better place. Heil wants to use his new skillset to enable more sustainable infrastructure and systems in Australia and Asia, while Millward says her time studying has enabled her to reflect on a variety of public policy topics. And characteristically, Ibe is also thinking big. “I want to align my research and the Foundation to my vision of helping African nations to address and tackle food insecurity and poverty, which affects millions of lives, every day.” [philanthropy.cam.ac.uk/supporting-graduates](http://philanthropy.cam.ac.uk/supporting-graduates)

# To understand society, you have to make human relationships, rather than structures, your focus

*Professor Stephen J Toope is the Vice-Chancellor of the University.*



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stephen J Toope (Trinity 1983), is an avid reader; as a consequence, he says that selecting titles for Shelfie proved rather challenging. So it is fascinating to note that, from the ability of humans to shape their laws to a quest for self-identity in a vastly unfamiliar world, Professor Toope's choices have one thing in common: the championing of the humanity of individuals. "To understand society, you have to put human interrelationships, rather than structures, as the primary focus of your attention," he says. That philosophy has informed his long career in international law and human rights – and is a theme reflected on his bookshelves.

## 1. THE MAKING OF THE ENGLISH WORKING CLASS

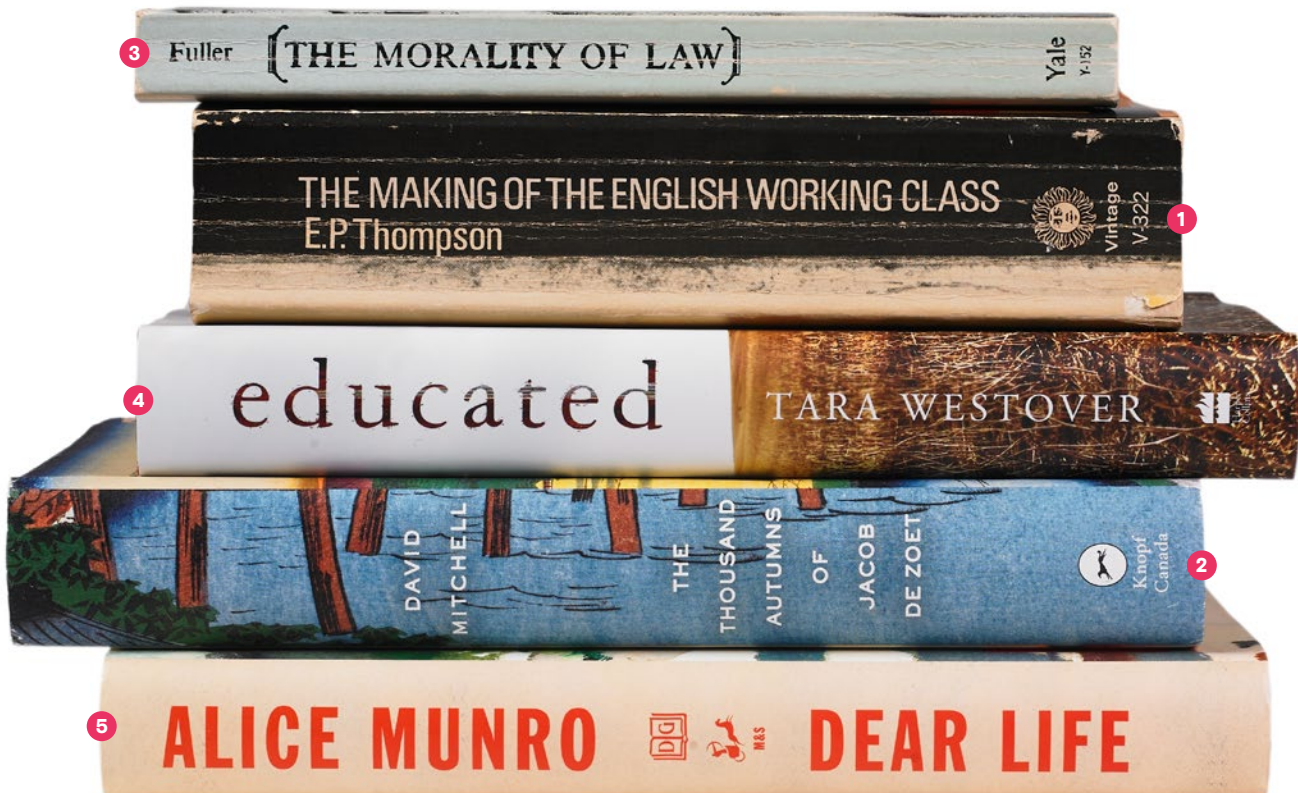
**EP THOMPSON (CORPUS 1941)**

I first read this while studying English History and Literature at Harvard. Thompson says his subject is not social structures, but a description of human relationships. I was deeply influenced by Thompson's understanding of how power can be used as a kind of symbolic or theatrical element to exert control within society. Again, he showed that the way power functions is often not purely structural but also through relationships, and that those relationships can be themselves shaped by examples of what he called 'the theatricality of the law'. I thought I was just interested in social history, but it turned out I was actually interested in legal history, and I didn't know it. And that's how I ended up going to law school.

## 2. THE THOUSAND AUTUMNS OF JACOB DE ZOET

**DAVID MITCHELL**

I read this during a bout of sickness on holiday. Instead of being out swimming in the lake, I was lying in bed. I had time on my hands, and I was absolutely enraptured by this book. It tells the story of a Dutchman in Japan managing the accounts of the Dutch East India Company, and it explores how layers in different societies can have almost no interaction. The central character, Jacob de Zoet, finds his way into these different societies during the course of the book – and it doesn't go very well. I think culture has a profound shaping ability that means that people look at the world differently, but this is not a happy story about cultural interaction! Instead, it's a story about failing to understand cultural difference. And I find that fascinating.





“

At that time in my life,  
I was just exploring  
the world and trying to  
understand it. And boy, if  
there's someone who can  
help you understand the  
world, it's Munro

”

### 3. THE MORALITY OF LAW

LON L FULLER

This, for me, is one of the most important books in 20th-century legal theory – I came across it while I was at law school. The book is really part of a debate between Fuller, who was a professor at Harvard at the time, and HLA Hart, who was a logical positivist at Oxford. Hart argued that law acquired its authority as a result of hierarchy and process – and at the time he won the debate. But I find Fuller to have the more satisfying argument. He believed that law was not about particular social institutions but emerged through the interaction in society of people and groups. His argument allows an internal critique of the law on grounds of fairness, and he allows for individuals to be actors – not passive recipients of the law or victims. In international law and human rights – where it is often not clear which authority or hierarchy should be referred to – the idea that law emerges, in part, from a human sense of right and wrong is critical.

### 4. EDUCATED

TARA WESTOVER (TRINITY 2008)

When I arrived here, Barry Everitt, Provost of the Gates Trust, sent me a signed copy of Tara Westover's book. I started to read it on a weekend, and I just could not put it down. I found the story itself so powerful. But what is so moving about it is the almost complete absence of bitterness. Her life is filled with these difficult moments that are worthy of extraordinary anger and frustration and even hatred – and yet there's none of that in the book. In fact, if anything, what amazed me was this sense that she captures her love for where she came from. It could be a didactic book: a story about overcoming a difficult background. But it's so much deeper than that because it's challenging to herself, and her own notion of identity.

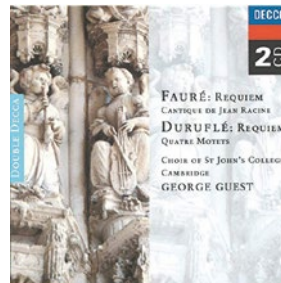
### 5. DEAR LIFE

ALICE MUNRO

I first read this in high school, when I was around 16. At that time in my life, I was just exploring the world and trying to understand it. And boy, if there's someone who can help you understand the world, it's Munro, even though she's talking about very small places and, sometimes, very narrow lives. But I just keep going back to her. Her writing is so economical and so crystalline: it just conveys so much. She is so good at capturing the moment when something shifts and changes in life and makes a person understand himself – usually herself in Munro's writing – differently or understand the world differently.

## I'll never forget singing old-school house, waiting for the phone to ring

*Lizzie Ball (St John's 1999) is a musician.*



### REQUIEM

GABRIEL FAURÉ

This is particularly special, as I was asked to perform the violin solo with the St John's choir for the Remembrance Day service. The names in the choir at that time were extraordinary – Allan Clayton, Iestyn Davies, Chris Gabbitts – and everyone was at that level. It was such a calm, moving and beautiful moment. The choir was a huge part of my life – I used to go there almost every night and just listen to them sing.



### NUYORICAN SOUL

NUYORICAN SOUL

I picked up this CD somewhere in Cambridge because it just looked interesting. It's a fusion of Latin and jazz – a real 90s New York sound. I'll always associate this with my room in New Court and its ridiculous pink lampshade. From the outside, the room would glow pink and everyone called it the Pink Light Zone. We always had great music on, but this album was special: I'd put it on to get me through the essay all-nighters.



### STAND UP

LOVE TRIBE

My first-ever singing gig was at an end-of-year party – that special time at the end of the third year, after exams. A friend suggested we pick 10 old-school house tracks for me to sing while he played. The rehearsal was the day our results were posted. I got my best friend to ring me on this brick-like mobile phone – I'll never forget standing in a house in London, singing old-school house music and waiting for the phone to ring.



### KIND OF BLUE

MILES DAVIS

Blue in Green was the soundtrack of my second year: late nights, cigarette smoke, beautiful jazz. I remember a lot of late-night sessions listening to this and trying to play the Bill Evans piano solo, which is one of the most admired in the repertoire.

*Lizzie Ball is a violinist, vocalist and creative producer. In 2018 she won a Daily Mail Inspirational Women Award.*

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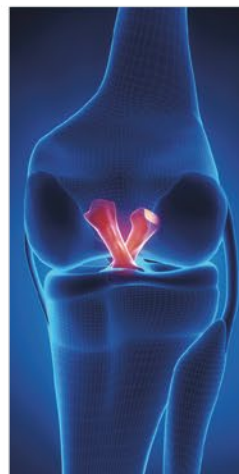
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## Why you are central to our mission

*Alison Traub* is Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations.



**W**hat do I think matters in our University? You. For me, alumni are at the heart of everything we do: what you think about the University, how you talk about your experience, whether you have accurate, timely information about how the University is developing its thinking are all vital to our mission.

It may surprise some of you to read that the Collegiate University spends a great deal of time and resource thinking about you and what you might want – but from the our perspective it makes perfect sense. We sometimes describe the University as comprising three pillars – students, staff and alumni – but, ultimately, we are who we educate: and that means we are Newton, Milton, Darwin, Rosalind Franklin, Jagadish Chandra Bose, Hans Blix, Alan Turing, Rab Butler, Jo Cox, Kwame Anthony Appiah, Tara Westover, Ali Smith, Sacha Baron Cohen, Stephen Hawking, Greg Winter, Zadie Smith, Richard Ayoade, Naomi Harris, Thandie Newton... and you.

Over the past 30 years that the alumni office has been in operation, we have spent a great deal of energy developing a responsive, useful, fun alumni programme – one that can deliver the benefits and content that you want, wherever you are in the world. Your feedback – whether you write to *CAM*, took part in our alumni survey, or have volunteered for focus groups or the Alumni Advisory Board – has a direct impact on that programme and I thank you for your thoughts, time and support.

Indeed, almost 30,000 of you took the time to complete the Collegiate University Alumni survey and subsequent focus groups. I was delighted to note how highly you value *CAM*, and I was also heartened to see your ambition for this magazine. You told us that you wanted more hard research, more access to alumni networks, and a better understanding of our thinking on the big issues such as Brexit and diversity.

“**We sometimes describe the University as comprising three pillars: students, staff and alumni. But, ultimately, we are who we educate – and that means you**”

Your feedback spurs us on to strive to make the magazine and the programme even better. Together, the College and University alumni offices are working hard to respond. In Cambridge, the Alumni Festival is a chance to hear the latest academic thinking and the CAMCard gives alumni discounts and access to hospitality across the city.

And outside Cambridge, we have expanded the Global Cambridge lecture series. Now, you can access leading academics sharing directly how Cambridge is working to solve some of the most important global challenges, in locations all over the world. (This year, the series will be hosted in Munich, Kuala Lumpur, Toronto, Edinburgh and Birmingham – visit our website, below, for more details.)

We are increasing the support provided to the many University alumni groups around the world (you can read more about what they offer on page 5) and we have expanded your access to academic journals beyond JSTOR to nine research portals.

We have already reported on University policy on issues such as admissions, diversity and Brexit in *CAM*, but we are increasingly looking to provide immediate, detailed information direct to alumni. Our alumni admissions toolkit dispels media stereotypes by providing up-to-date information about how admissions really works in 2019 (you can access it here: [undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/alumni-toolkit](http://undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/alumni-toolkit)).

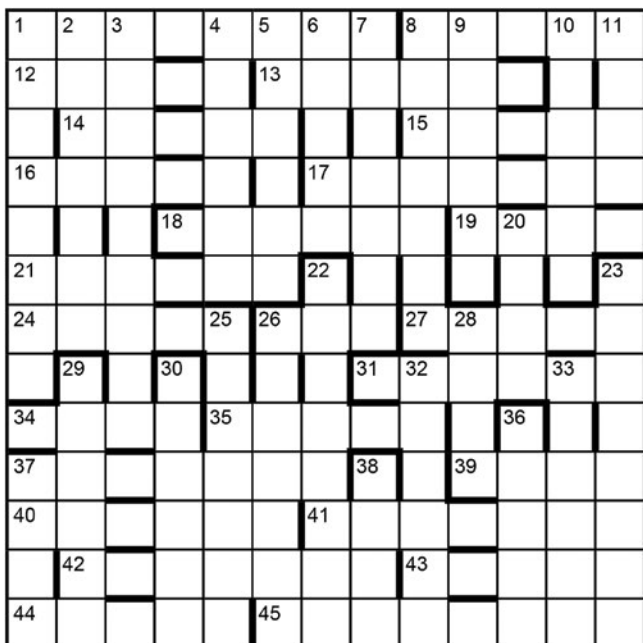
Finally, we know many of you want to volunteer, mentor and advocate for the Collegiate University and we are working on more ways that alumni can do that in the future.

Ultimately, we want to make sure that you know that your connection with Cambridge is recognised – that you know how much we value your contribution to this institution. Want to make the most of us? Come to a Global Cambridge event. Join an alumni group. Keep your contact details updated. Read *CAM*. Pick up a University or College alumni benefit. And tell us what you think: about our alumni programme, about the University, about diversity, about admissions. Your relationship with Cambridge is lifelong. We look forward to hearing from you and growing with you as our community strengthens and expands. [alumni.cam.ac.uk](http://alumni.cam.ac.uk)



## CAM 86 PRIZE CROSSWORD

# No Show by Schadenfreude



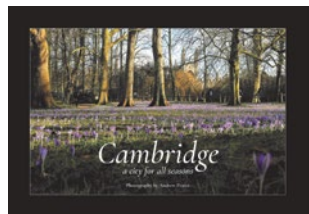
All entries to be received  
by 3 May 2019. Please send  
completed crosswords

- **by post to:**  
CAM 86 Prize Crossword,  
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Cambridge, CB5 8AB
- **online at:**  
[alumni.cam.ac.uk/crossword](http://alumni.cam.ac.uk/crossword)
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The first correct entry drawn  
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poetry, prose and news articles  
representing all 31 Cambridge  
Colleges.

Two runners-up will also receive  
£50 to spend on CUP publications.

Solutions and winners will be  
printed in CAM 87 and posted  
online on 17 May 2019 at  
[alumni.cam.ac.uk/magazine](http://alumni.cam.ac.uk/magazine)



## INSTRUCTIONS

The grid will initially include 19 empty cells. These must be filled  
to reveal the thematic members. The titular character can be traced  
out in the completed grid using knight's moves (one cell doing  
double duty) and must be deleted. Ignoring spaces all final grid  
entries are real words. Numbers in brackets include the empty cells.

## ACROSS

- Note yard missing from 80 yards  
of worsted (8)
- European king abruptly cross (5)
- There's no breadth to prosthetic  
foot (5)
- Muslim princes are confused about  
letter returned by Siemens (6)
- Symbol shown by new computer  
access procedure (5)
- Dance music - it enthralled acting  
doctor (5)
- Trojan woman short of fifty (5)
- Group of Queer Street collectors (7)
- Flammable liquid in a mixed state  
absorbing inert gas and nitrogen (6)
- Worry about tense state (4)
- Undiminished diplomacy shown  
by independent sacking relative (6)
- Active amateur cartoonist out  
of Sweden (5)
- Attention seeker picked up  
Ailsa's close relative (3)
- Showy flowers for example Oscar  
planted in the back of this square (5)
- Rolls Royce finally left next to black  
and silver Sierra (6)
- Boat returned carrying German  
letter (4)
- Dijon's concrete plant isn't finished (5)
- Bury forgotten old character (7)
- Scots rush to attract attention (4)
- Posh one's wearing mature poet's  
dress (6)
- Local young woman accompanied  
by awfully vain Italian scientist (7)
- Paddy's back after first dance (7)
- South American social reformer  
beginning to enjoy life (5)
- Macdonald's livestock first to  
shelter out of the weather (5)
- Game of skill to be considered  
generally as a concept (8)

## DOWN

- I remove one anonymous note  
relating to old lamp component (8)
- Lying lazily about, laughing out  
loud with Heather (7)
- Struggling German nation  
in for some thrashing (9)
- Steer in the middle of icy curve (6)
- Soldier escorting nurse about  
in Fife (6)
- Wizard in the morning lifted above  
earth (5)
- Eastern US government  
department ignores absolute  
necessity (7)
- Rotting trees start to secrete  
organic compounds (7)
- Softened manner pursued  
by director (6)
- South Africa supports vessels  
in history (6)
- Rulers by the way are supported  
by us (4)
- Soldier's climbing inside the empty  
shaft (4)
- Train gang to catch sheep (8)
- Country like Seychelles, warm  
and dry from the south (8)
- Deep-voiced Yankee following  
space mission (7)
- Face always turned up on time (7)
- Is sailor for example at the top? (4)
- Tea dance without a tango at the  
end (6)
- Quiet republican - that's Kelvin! (6)
- A way of looking at fish (6)
- Subaltern escorting William's  
mother round a conservatory? (6)
- Guns raised to protect one  
Scottish stallion (5)
- Penny stolen from highly valued  
antique till (4)
- Artist and prince get along well (4)

## SOLUTION TO CAM 85 CROSSWORD MEN ON BOARD BY SCHADENFREUDE



Letters from extra words in reverse  
give **THE BOAT RACE CREW**  
(2018 winners) in grid order:

ALIZA/DEH, RAMAM/BASON,  
DAVID/SON, H/URN, ME/EKS, FUR/EY,  
FISH/ER, EL/WOOD and LET/TEN.

**Winner:**  
Peter King (Corpus 1972)

**Runners-up:**  
John Boys (Trinity 1955),  
Simon Melen (St John's 1979)

**Still struggling?**  
Clue notes can be found at:  
[alumni.cam.ac.uk/magazine/cam-85](http://alumni.cam.ac.uk/magazine/cam-85)





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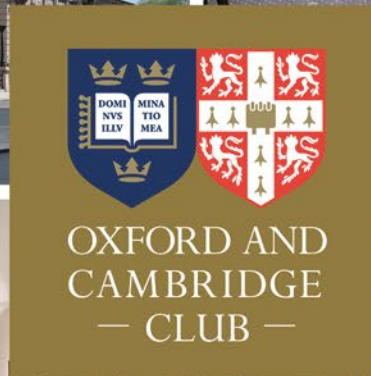
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*'There was a lot of laughter and some serious scholarship to be absorbed.'*

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