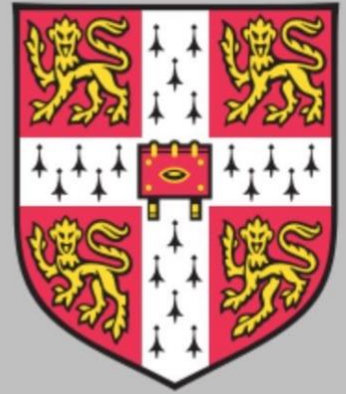


Norfolk Cambridge Society

Spring 2022 Newsletter



From the Chair

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Spring is here but, for many of us, it will be harder to enjoy with the constant reminders of the dreadful plight of the Ukrainians.

Our Twelfth Lecture on the **British Constitution – Strengths, Weaknesses and Risks** was held on 21st April. Over 100 people attended, well below the average for pre-Covid lectures. Perhaps this reflected continuing nervousness about Covid. Perhaps also some have got out of the habit of attending live lectures. Whatever the reason, Professor Mike Kenny's lecture was excellent. His arguments were balanced but penetrating, the style entertaining and the handling of audience questions superb. There has been much positive feedback.

The subjects for our next two lectures could hardly be more timely. The thirteenth will be held from **6.30pm on Tuesday 14th June** and will be delivered by **Dr Matthew D'Auria** of the University of East Anglia. His subject will be **'What is a Nation?'** Dr D'Auria is a leading historian of ideas and will consider the tools forged by historians and social scientists to grasp the true nature of nationhood and nationalism, its power to capture hearts and minds and its influence on world stability. This will pave the way for our fourteenth public lecture on **Friday 30th September**, when **Dr Bridget Kendall**, Master of Peterhouse and past Senior Foreign Correspondent at the BBC, will talk on **'Understanding Russia Today'**. Dr Kendall has twice publicly interviewed Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin. This will be an exceptional opportunity to hear the views of a leading expert on Russia.

On **26th January 2023** we change tack when our fifteenth lecturer will be **Sir Paul Nurse**, Chief Executive and Director of the Francis Crick Institute and a former President of the Royal Society. He is one of the most distinguished scientists in the world, having been awarded the 2001 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discoveries of protein molecules that control the division of cells in the cell cycle. His subject will be **'What is Life?'** (This also happens also to be the title of a famous and charming book by Erwin Schrödinger, published in 1944, which represented the first foray by a physicist into this most complex of biological questions.) Excitingly for us, Sir Paul has strong Norfolk connections; he was born in Norwich and earned his PhD degree from the University of East Anglia.

I hope many of you will decide to attend with family and friends. Our lectures are designed as you know to celebrate the rigorous pursuit and dissemination of truth by leading academics.

Best wishes, Geoffrey
geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com

From the Editor

Apologies for the delayed appearance of this newsletter which is due to my having been in France! I hope this is a sign that we can all begin to re-embrace our 'favourite things' and that some of these will be those offered by NCS. Mu Gurbutt has been very busy on our behalf and details of three activities organised for the summer months follow below. Some spaces also still available for our July river outing with the Oxford University Society.

Please read Geoffrey's request for help in running some of our regular activities further on in the newsletter.

Kathy Moyse ajskcm@btinternet.com

2021/22 Norfolk Cambridge Society Student Award Essay Competition

This year, as in the previous two academic years, the Norfolk Cambridge Society has run a Student Award Scheme with the aim of encouraging students who attend Norfolk schools to consider applying to the University of Cambridge.

Final year students who had applied for and been offered either a firm or a conditional place at a Cambridge College were invited via their schools to submit a *circa* 1000-word essay on a topic chosen by the NCS Awards Committee members.

Entrants' essays are anonymised and then 'scored' by the Awards Committee members before a short-list for a final interview is drawn up. Up to three £500 Cash prizes are normally available, while runner-up prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Committee.

There can be few readers who are unaware of the Covid-related difficulties and disruptions experienced by all schools and their pupils during the 21/22 academic year. We are therefore particularly grateful both to the staff in local schools who promoted our award scheme and to those students who submitted essays and thus made it possible for us to run the scheme for a third year.

The overall quality of submissions in all three years has been high, and this year, perhaps particularly so. I and my colleagues would like to congratulate our three 2022 prize winners and the very worthy runner up. All four have been invited to attend the NCS lecture at Norwich School on **Friday September 30th** 2022 when we will be able to congratulate them in person.

Encouraged by positive feedback from students and their schools, the Awards Committee will, over the coming months, review and evaluate the outcomes of our three 'pilot' years. In particular, we will examine ways of expanding and developing the scheme to open up the competition to more students. One of the 2020 winners said of her participation in the Scheme:

'The Student Awards provided a thought-provoking opportunity to consider and put into words what I would like to achieve from my university degree, whilst also giving the chance to discuss the issues I highlighted with members of the Society who are experienced in a variety of different fields. I would certainly recommend entering this competition for anyone hoping to go to Cambridge.'

The Awards Scheme prizes are funded by the Society's lecture series. With this in mind, I encourage all readers of this newsletter to support the NCS lecture series and the awards scheme by attending the NCS lectures and promoting both the lectures and the awards to local schools and their students.

For further information about the NCS lectures or the awards scheme, please contact any member of the NCS committee whose email addresses can be found at the end of the newsletter

Annie Grant, on behalf of the NCS Student Awards Committee

NCS Book Group

After a longer than usual break to accommodate Easter we met on Zoom this week to discuss *Turn the Ship Around!* by L. David Marquet which details his attempts to change the leadership model on a US nuclear submarine. I think it's fair to say that we were underwhelmed by the book itself but an interesting discussion of leadership and our experiences of meeting, inter alia, Margaret Thatcher followed.

Our next meeting will be on **Friday June 10th from 12.30pm**. We are meeting for lunch and a discussion at my house near Long Stratton and this will be the first time most of us have actually met! The text is a novel, *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haigh. If you would like to join us at this meeting or online in the autumn please email me.

Kathy Moyse
ajskcm@btinternet.com

NCS Epicureans



Our Sunday lunch group meets in Gastropubs around Norfolk every couple of months or so. All NCS members, their partners and friends are welcome. Our last lunch was at the Ingham Swan. Unfortunately, our next has been cancelled due to lack of numbers. **Please see my note on helping to organise this at the end of the newsletter.**

Contact Geoffrey Smart geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com

NCS Viewpoints



A fluid group of NCS members and interested others meeting every couple of months, historically at Norwich School but increasingly at each other's houses. We discuss a wide range of things that matter. Our last meeting on April 7th considered 'What is a Civilised Society?'. Our next meeting to discuss '*Belief: Sources thereof and its effect on our lives*', will be held from **6.00pm to 7.30pm on Thursday May 26th**, at **36 Elm Hill, NR3 1HG**. On **Sunday July 31st from 3.30pm onwards**, we plan to hold a discussion at my house, the **Old Rectory, Beeston PE32 2NE**, on '*What still needs to change for women?*'

We can accommodate a maximum of twelve at each of these meetings. If you wish to come along please contact geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com

Norfolk Club Speaker Lunches

The Norfolk Club is a private members club based in the heart of Norwich which celebrated its 250th anniversary in 2020 and is one of the last remaining county clubs of its kind. I am currently responsible for organising many of their speaker events and it occurred to me that some NCS members might enjoy attending these as guests. I can host up to four attendees (NCS members and partners) at each lunch subject to numbers. The cost is usually in the region of £25 of per head for an excellent lunch plus the talk. Dress code is smart casual. Upcoming speakers include

- **May 26th** Andrew Clark: Professor Emeritus, British Antarctic Survey on *Antarctica and a Life on Ice*
- **June 22nd** Ashley Grote, Master of Music at Norwich Cathedral and a fellow of The Royal College of Organists. Topic to be decided but definitely something musical!
- **September 13th**, Major General Sir William George Cubitt, KCVO, CBE, DL former General Officer Commanding London District and Major-General commanding the Household Division) on *The realities of the Far East POW experience 1940 – 1945*

Please contact geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com if you would like to attend any of these.

NCS Incrementum Lunch Club



This is a fun investment lunch club, comprising up to twelve Norfolk Club and NCS members. No actual money is required. Currently our main notional portfolio comprises 63 equities and funds, all picked by members. At the time of writing these are 7.5% down overall. (We may have to change the name of the club to 'Decrementum' if this carries on!). However, one holding is up 67%, another 48% and several others are also doing well. We are always on the lookout for new members. We meet every 6 to 8 weeks at the Norfolk Club.

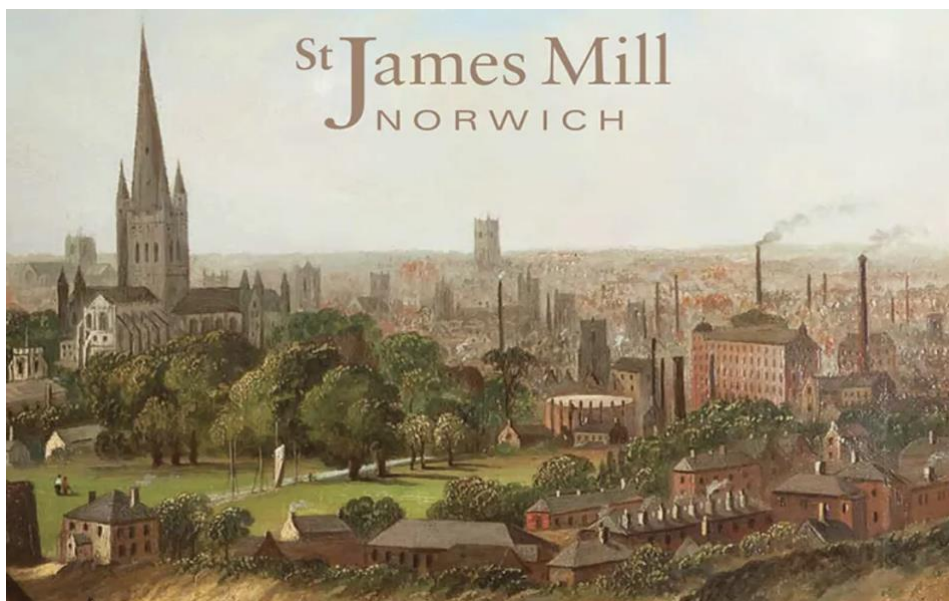
Please contact geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com if you wish to try us out.

The Industry of Norwich: A talk and guided walk with Dr Mary Fewster discovering Norwich's industrial past. Friday 1st July - meeting 2pm at The King's Centre, Norwich. NR1 1PH

Alumni and guests are invited to join the NCS for a talk and walk looking at evidence of Norwich's hidden industrial past. The walk will be led by Dr Mary Fewster, who has taught at the School for Continuing Education at UEA and is a member of the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group. Last year, Mary conducted a walk on the north side of the river: this year we are looking at the south side. First, we'll meet at the King's Centre and Mary will give an illustrated talk about the many factories along King Street. Tea may be purchased at the Centre. Then we set off on the walk (which will include quite a steep incline) looking for some of the industrial remains. The walk last year filled very quickly and was repeated by popular demand. It's amazing how every day we walk past but don't recognise the signs of Norwich's industrial past. You should allow about 2 hours in total.

Cost: £12.00

Please contact Mu Gurbutt (muriel.gurbett@cantab.net) to reserve a place



186 Gwydir Street, Cambridge: A terraced house with a secret. Thursday, July 28th at 1.30pm

As students, many of us biked down Mill Road. Then the terraced houses provided student accommodation but now one such house in Gwydir Street has received Grade II* listed status.

David Parr was a working-class Victorian decorative artist who worked for the Cambridge firm of F. R. Leach & Sons painting houses, colleges and churches with designs created by some of the best architects and designers in the country, including George Frederick Bodley, William Morris and Charles Eamer Kempe. In the evening, Parr decorated his own two bedroomed terraced house in Gwydir Street. After his death in 1927, his granddaughter, aged 12, came to live in the house to look after her grandmother and she stayed for the next 85 years. She changed little, preserving the artwork, wall tiles, Lino and furniture.

In 2009, the house was discovered by Tamsin Wimhurst, who was studying for a Master's degree in Local History, and so began the enormous task of purchasing and preserving the property.

Because of its size, only 6 people may visit in a group and only 48 people per week. We have managed to book a visit for 6 people the **cost of which is £16 each**, including a donation. The tour will last approximately one and a half hours.



For further details and to reserve a place, contact Mu Gurbutt at muriel.gurbutt@cantab.net

An Evening of Opera at Thorington Outdoor Theatre IP17 3RB. Friday July 8th at 7.30pm

Constructed in a WW2 bomb crater during the Covid Lockdowns, Thorington Outdoor Theatre held its inaugural season in 2021. This magical setting can accommodate 350 spectators and it is even possible to bring your (well behaved) dog!

You can expect some wonderful and well-known music by Handel, Mozart, the great bel canto Italian opera composers and Rodgers & Hammerstein all performed by four stunning young singers and five of the finest chamber musicians in the country. There will be some surprises and unusual gems from the emotional depth of the quartet from Beethoven's *Fidelio* to the caustic wit of Sondheim's lyrics and sheer pazzazz of the final number from Verdi's *Falstaff*. The orchestral scores have been expertly arranged for string quintet and the concert will last 1 hour 45 minutes including a twenty-minute interval. Drinks may be purchased and homemade nibbles will be available although you may choose to arrive early with your own picnic. There is onsite parking and just a short walk through the trees brings you to the theatre. **Tickets are £25** and include the interval nibbles!

For further details and to reserve a place contact Mu Gurbutt at <mailto:muriel.gurbutt@cantab.net>

Mississippi Boat Trip on The Broads

On **Wednesday July 13th** from 6.30pm to 9.30pm, we will be holding our major summer event jointly with the Oxford University Society-Norfolk on board the Southern Comfort, a Mississippi-style river boat. Included in the ticket price of £27.50 is a welcome drink, finger buffet and jazz band. Friends and family are welcome. 50 places have already been booked and the maximum capacity is 80. Time is running out to book your seat for an evening out, Mississippi-style, on the Broads.

Please contact geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Two pleas from the Chair!

Do you know any Norfolk-based Cambridge graduates?

Our Society really ought to have more members. Currently, on the NCS database, there are 227. According to Cambridge University's Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) there are 1400 Cambridge alumni living in Norfolk. Unfortunately, DARO cannot give us their email addresses for data protection reasons. They will only forward to them four lecture invitations a year or four newsletters a year. But not both.

So, if any of you know any Norfolk-based Cambridge alumni, or know people who do, could you please encourage them to email geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com so that I can include them on our database. This way they will receive invitations to our lectures and other events. We are particularly under-represented amongst alumni of working age.

Help needed with NCS activities

Since first joining the Society in 2018, I have tried to expand greatly the range of activities available to members. This began with launching the Norfolk Cambridge Society lectures but then in fairly rapid succession I introduced our Viewpoints discussion group, the NCS Student Awards (now led by Annie Grant), the Incrementum Investment lunch club, NCS Epicureans and, most recently, invitations to Norfolk Club Speaker Lunches. Kathy Moyse launched the highly successful NCS Book Group a couple of years ago and Mu Gurbutt has been marvellous in organising many other activities for us including those detailed in this newsletter. Throughout, I have been extremely grateful for the support we have received from many others, in particular Steffan Griffiths and Jonathan Pearson of Norwich School in hosting the lectures and from Rob Edwards (and early on, Lucy Fuller) in enabling us to continue the lectures through Covid lockdowns by handling all the associated Zoom hosting and recording.

Such is the range of activities we are now engaged in, however, that the time pressures for me have become rather too great. I am therefore seeking to pare back my time commitments to the NCS from this autumn onwards. Specifically, I am looking for others to help run NCS Epicureans and NCS Viewpoints. I shall be happy still to participate in these events and to continue to run the NCS Lectures and Incrementum. But I would really be grateful if a few others would be prepared to organise one or two Epicureans and Viewpoints meetings themselves each year, otherwise these groups will have to meet much less frequently.

Please contact me at geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com if you are interested in helping or if you are interested in setting up and running any other kind of group.

Contacts

Geoffrey Smart geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com
Kathy Moyse ajskcm@btinternet.com
Mu Gurbutt muriel.gurbutt@cantab.net
Peter Smith pdgsmith@hotmail.com

For all information about the Society please take a look at our website, ably maintained by Bryan Guttridge who can be contacted at bgguttridge@gmail.com

<https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/group/norfolk-cambridge-society>

NCS Future Events. April- September 2022

Date	Day	Time	Event	Topic	Location
05/05/22	Thursday	12.00pm to 2.00pm	Incrementum	Stocks and funds to buy and sell in order to maximise our notional portfolio's medium-term returns	Norfolk Club, 17 Upper King St, Norwich NR3 1RB
08/05/22	Sunday	1.00pm	Epicureans	Good food and good conversation	The Honingham Buck, 29 The St, Honingham, Norwich NR9 5BL
26/05/22	Thursday	12:00pm for 12:30pm	Norfolk Club Speaker lunch with Andrew Clarke Professor Emeritus British Antarctic Survey	Antarctica and a Life on Ice Andrew will explore the history of the continent and the extent to which the modern visitor sees a different continent from the one first discovered a little over two centuries ago. Find out why a Paris nightclub became involved in Antarctica, why icefish are so strange and where the forests have gone.	Norfolk Club, 17 Upper King St, Norwich NR3 1RB
26/05/22	Thursday	6.00pm to 7.30pm	Viewpoints	Belief – Sources thereof and its effect on our lives	36 Elm Hill, Norwich NR3 1HG
10/06/22	Friday	12.30pm to End!	Book Group	<u>The Midnight Library</u> By Matt Haigh	Details from ajskcm@btinternet.com
14/06/22	Tuesday	6.30pm to 8.30pm	Thirteenth NCS Lecture	What is a nation? Dr D'Auria is a leading historian of ideas and will consider the tools forged by historians and social scientists to grasp the true nature of nationhood and nationalism, its power to capture hearts and minds and its influence on world stability	Blake Studio, Norwich School
16/06/22	Thursday	12.00pm to 2.00pm	Incrementum	Stocks and funds to buy and sell in order to maximise our notional portfolio's medium-term returns	Norfolk Club, 17 Upper King St, Norwich NR3 1RB
22/06/22	Wednesday	12:00pm for 12:30pm	Norfolk Club Speaker lunch	Ashley Grote, Master of Music at Norwich Cathedral on something musical!	Norfolk Club, 17 Upper King St, Norwich NR3 1RB
01/07/22	Friday	2.00pm	Norwich guided walk into the past	Dr Mary Fewster has taught at the School for Continuing Education at UEA and is a member of the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group.	The Kings Centre, King St, Norwich NR1 1PH
08/07/22	Friday	7.30pm	Thorington Outdoor Theatre	An eclectic selection of opera arranged for 4 voices and string quintet	Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 3RB
13/07/22	Wednesday	6.30pm – 9.30pm	Joint summer event with the Oxford University Society	Tickets £27.50 to include a welcome drink, a buffet supper and a jazz band	Horning
26/07/22	Tuesday	12.00pm to	Incrementum	Stocks and funds to buy and sell in order to maximise our notional portfolio's	Norfolk Club, 17 Upper King St, Norwich NR3 1RB

Date	Day	Time	Event	Topic	Location
		2.00pm		medium-term returns	
28/07/22	Thursday	1.30pm	186 Gwydir St Cambridge	A peep at life in the early Twentieth century	186 Gwydir St. Cambridge CB1 2LW
31/07/22	Sunday	3.30pm to 5.30pm	Viewpoints	What still needs to change for women and why?	Old Rectory, Beeston PE32 2NE
06/09/22	Tuesday	12.00pm to 2.00pm	Incrementum	Stocks and funds to buy and sell in order to maximise our national portfolio's medium-term returns	Norfolk Club 17 Upper King Street Norwich NR3 1RB
13/09/22	Tuesday	12:00pm for 12:30pm	Norfolk Club Speaker lunch	The realities of the Far East POW experience 1940 - 1945	Norfolk Club, 17 Upper King St, Norwich NR3 1RB
28/09/22	Wednesday	12:00pm for 12:30pm	Norfolk Club Speaker lunch	What you may not know about Norwich	Norfolk Club, 17 Upper King St, Norwich NR3 1RB
30/09/22	Friday	6.30 pm to 8.30pm	Fourteenth NCS Lecture	Understanding Russia Today	Blake Studio, Norwich School

***Please note that the Book Group meets approximately every 6 weeks with dates set from one meeting to the next.
Please contact Kathy Moyses at ajskcm@btinternet.com if you would like to come along.***