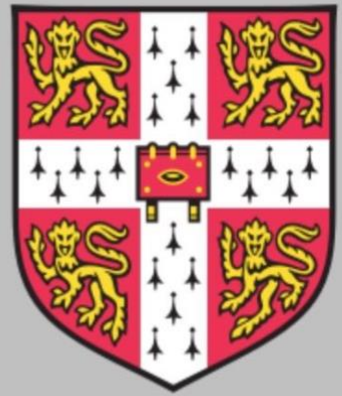


Norfolk Cambridge Society

Winter 2023 Newsletter



From the Chair

Our Society goes from strength to strength. We now have over a thousand people on our database who regularly receive invitations to our lectures. Of these, at least 250 are Cambridge University alumni. (There may be more but we rely on people to tell us!) As always, we are on the lookout for new alumni members, especially of working age. We rely heavily on existing members to mention the NCS to others. So, anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated.

There is little doubt that our lecture series celebrating the rigorous pursuit and dissemination of truth has proved to be a powerful magnet for fine speakers over the last five years. None more so than Sir Paul Nurse, who attracted an audience of over 450 people for his wonderful lecture on "What is Life?" on 26th January at the UEA. He combined charm, humanity and hard science in the most engaging of ways. Many in the audience said they were mesmerised. Our next lecture on 27th April is another mouth-watering prospect. Professor Ravindra Gupta, one of the top immunologists in the world, will speak on 'Defeating Pandemic Viruses'. More details below. We have already sold 190 seats and are at full capacity for the Blake Studio, Norwich School. However, if the waiting list grows long enough, we will move it to the Refectory.

As regards other events organised by the Society, there was an excellent turnout at the first Epicureans lunch run by Kathy Moyse and Mu Gurbutt in February. All great fun. Kathy's book group continues to receive strong support and Mu has put together some very interesting events for the Spring and Summer, beginning with a visit to the Great War Huts in Hawsted on Tuesday 18th April. Finally, Incrementum continues to meet regularly. So, lots on.

We continue to seek someone to revive Viewpoints, our discussion group on matters philosophical, political and whimsical, which was suspended last year due to too few Cambridge alumni coming along. Do please let me know if you are interested in running it. It is a great opportunity to meet interesting others and to talk about challenging topics.

Geoffrey
geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com

From the Editor

Apologies for the late appearance of this newsletter which is due to the death of my mother (aged 90!) in early January.

I spent two days last week planting trees which was exceptionally therapeutic and despite the cold wind really did feel like a moment of hope and optimism. It will probably be 5 years before they really get going and it felt very positive to be doing something constructive for the future. The Society is also getting its post Covid act together so we look forward to seeing some of you at our events over the coming months.

The next newsletter will be published during May as scheduled. Please send any items for inclusion to me.

Kathy Moyse ajskcm@btinternet.com

NCS Public Lectures

The Sixteenth in our series of public lectures will take place on **Thursday 27th April at Norwich School from 6.30pm to 8.00pm**. Our speaker will be **Ravindra Gupta**, Professor of Clinical Microbiology at the Cambridge Institute for Therapeutic Immunology and Infectious Diseases and his subject will be **'Defeating Pandemic Viruses'**. Professor Gupta was named by TIME Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2020 and appeared frequently on British television during the Covid crisis. He made major contributions to the fight against COVID-19, reporting the first genotypic-phenotypic evidence for immune escape of SARS-CoV-2 within an individual and defining the biological basis for the immune escape and transmissibility advantage of the Delta variant. Professor Gupta completed his medical undergraduate studies at Cambridge and Oxford Universities, obtained his Masters in Public Health at Harvard as a Fulbright scholar and later, whilst Professor at University College London, led the team demonstrating HIV cure in the 'London Patient' – the world's only living HIV cure and only the second ever recorded.

During the Covid crisis, which may be not yet over, the immense sophistication of modern medicine, communications and production systems, was amply demonstrated. Vaccines were developed at astonishing and unprecedented speed, citizens of most countries were persuaded or forced to comply with draconian lock-downs and the medical profession across the world responded with extraordinary commitment and sacrifice. However, mistakes were inevitably made because the disease was new and the learning curve for all, exceptionally steep. It is now essential that the lessons learnt are fully absorbed by both politicians and citizens across the world and cemented into future international and national structures and processes. Inevitably, new viruses will arise which may be even more deadly. This is a unique experience to hear about what we ought to be doing from a leader in the field.

Tickets are priced at £15, discounted to £10 for senior citizens and to £5 for sixth formers and accompanying teachers. The price includes a glass of wine or a soft drink, which will be served after the lecture. To purchase tickets, visit <https://norfolkcambridgesociety.org.uk/> **Please do not hesitate to forward this invitation to others. These are public lectures and all are welcome.**

Upcoming Lectures

'The Military Instrument - Theory and Practice' on **6th June 2023**. **Lieutenant General Douglas McKenzie Chalmers**, CB, DSO, OBE is a former British Army officer who served as Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Military Strategy & Operations) from 2018 to 2021. He is currently Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

'Delivering Truth in a Tribal World' on **28th September 2023**. **Roger Mosey**, Master of Selwyn College and a Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge. Roger spent most of his career at the BBC. His final role was as Editorial Director, and previous jobs included being Editor of Today on BBC Radio 4, Controller of BBC Radio 5 Live, Head of BBC Television News, Director of Sport and the BBC Director of London 2012.

Purchasing Your Tickets Online. A Reminder.

With increased interest in our lectures we have moved to automated ticketing with Ticket Tailor, an online system that allows card payment. Tickets are issued to your email with a QR code to be scanned on entry either from a paper ticket or on your phone.

You can access Ticket Tailor via both the Cambridge Alumni website and the Cambridge Norfolk Society's own website <https://norfolkcambridgesociety.org.uk/> . You can also create an online account directly with Ticket Tailor.

2022/23 Norfolk Cambridge Society Student Awards

We are delighted to welcome Tim Chaloner to the Awards subcommittee. He is an Emmanuel graduate in Economics and also has a PGCE. He has significant experience of teaching and examining at A Level including setting, marking and grading exam papers.

The closing date for submissions to this year's award was March 1st and we are aiming to interview finalists at the end of the month.

Annie Grant annie.grant@uea.ac.uk

NCS Book Group

We met in February to discuss Louis NacNeice's narrative poem *Autumn Journal*. It was very well received with our discussion focusing at some length on the experience of reading as history events, which the writer recorded as his day to day life, in the months leading up to 1939. We also considered parallels between his social commentary and that of George Orwell and the influence of other poets with whom he was friendly, especially Auden and Betjeman.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 13th April at 6pm** via Zoom when we'll be talking about *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. It has been the Sunday Times Bestseller and comes highly recommended by one of our members who is in fact a Chemist! If you would like to join us please contact me by email.

Our May meeting will almost certainly be in person.

Kathy Moyse

Epicureans



We were fourteen for our first revived lunch meeting and a good time seems to have been had by all.

Our next event will be on **Friday 21st April from 12.30pm** at **Benedict's** in Norwich. Since opening in 2015 the restaurant has been named amongst The Times top 100 restaurants in the UK, Square Meal 100 and EDP Norfolk's Best Restaurant. Benedict's was awarded 3 AA Rosettes in January 2018. We will be eating from the prix fixe menu, which at £28 is incredibly good value. There is no choice but, in my experience, it is always fabulous. The set menu changes weekly and the current example is on the website www.restaurantbenedicts.com

We will be eating in The Sewing Room, Benedict's private dining room, so numbers are limited to 14. Please confirm your attendance to the email address below by Tuesday April 11th. when I will be in a position to send out the menu for our visit. At this point you will be able to request amendments to any of the dishes if necessary. All produce is locally sourced and they are very responsive to individual dietary requirements.

Kathy Moyse ajskcm@btinternet.com and Mu Gurbutt

Incrementum Lunchtime Investment Group



Our notional stock picking group run jointly with members of the Norfolk Club (and which requires no-one to put up any real money!) continues to meet every two months or so and produces much bonhomie. We are always on the lookout for new members and meet every two or three months at the Norfolk Club in Norwich. Please contact geoffreyjnsmart@gmail.com if you wish to try us out.

We will be meeting at 11.30 am followed by lunch on the following dates:

Thursday 20th April

Tuesday 20th June

Geoffrey

Viewpoints is currently suspended. See the Chair's comments above.



Future Events

Great War Huts, Brook Farm Camp, Hawsted near Bury St Edmunds. Tuesday April 18th.

This ground-breaking project, which has been used for documentaries and on film sets, tells the story of the personal, military and social history of the First World War including the opportunity to visit the trenches which recreate those on the Western Front.

10.30am: Meet for tea/coffee There is a large car park at the site.

11.15am: Talk by Taff Gillingham on 'Great War Huts; an accidental First World War heritage project'.

12.30pm: Light lunch

After lunch, there will be a guided tour of the site. ***Good walking shoes are recommended.***

The cost is £20 per person. For further details and to reserve a place, please contact Mu Gurbutt mugurbutt@hotmail.com

Afternoon Tea and Chanters Jigge. Wednesday 24th May - Wacton Hall NR15 2UL



Mark the start of summer with afternoon tea accompanied by a celebration of English music at this newly renovated Norfolk Long House dating from 1587. Weather permitting the event will be outside.

Chanters Jigge are a duo who have been involved for many years in making early music and have performed all over the UK and abroad. You will have the chance to talk to Malcom and Elizabeth about the songs and the 20 different traditional and modern instruments they play as we follow them on the journey of street music through the centuries.

We'll be kicking off at 2.30pm and expect to wind up by about 5pm. Tea, coffee and cold drinks (including Wacton Hall apple juice) will be available throughout alongside sandwiches and homemade cakes.

If you'd like to find out more about Chanters Jigge take a look at www.chantersjigge.co.uk

The cost is £10 per head. To reserve a place please contact Mu Gurbutt at mugurbutt@hotmail.com

Obituary

Rev. Canon Gordon Dodson

Gordon Dodson was a faithful and supportive member of the original Norfolk Cambridge Society. With his wife, Pat, he made an active contribution to our meetings, the most notable example being his reading of a Latin Grace at our Annual Dinners. If the speaker was an alumnus of an Oxford or Cambridge College, he provided the Grace from that College, with the Latin text followed by a translation.

Gordon was born in 1931 in Liverpool and after National Service, during which he helped to guard the Suez Canal, he read Classics and Law at Emmanuel. Shortly after finishing at Cambridge he felt the call to Holy Orders and was ordained in Chelmsford Cathedral. After serving as a curate in Barking he joined the Church Missionary Society and with Pat worked in Pakistan from 1963 to 1967. Returning to England, he had a brief spell in New Malden, before moving to Norfolk in 1969. He was to spend the rest of his life in the County, serving as Vicar or Rector at Snettisham, Heacham and Rising, Reepham, Thurnham, Wood Dalling and Salle.

He was Rural Dean of Heacham and Rising and in 1985 was made an Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral. He was also a member of the General Synod. He retired to Cromer in 1994, and as well as helping at the Parish Church, he continued his organ playing - for many years he was an accomplished recitalist. As he became increasingly frail, he moved with Pat to Eckling Grange, where he died on the 24th January. A large congregation at the Funeral Service and Celebration of his Life at Cromer Church was reminded of his faith, his warmth and his kindness as husband, father, grandfather, pastor and friend.

John Balls

Contacts

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

<https://norfolkcambridgesociety.org.uk/>

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