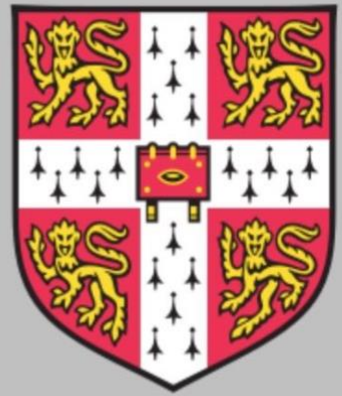


Norfolk Cambridge Society

Spring 2024 Newsletter



From the Chair

Would you like to become an officer of the NCS?

As you can see from this newsletter, in addition to our hugely successful programme of prestigious lectures which have become so massively popular with the community, the Norfolk Cambridge Society runs a wide range of agreeable social events.

As we expand, we are seeking additional officers. The obligations are not onerous. We have a quarterly committee meeting which can be attended remotely or in person as convenient. You would be able to help shape our activities, and perhaps get involved in some activities which suit your abilities. There are opportunities to help in the selection of distinguished VIP lecturers and to meet them in a social context when they speak.

Whilst we are not formally a charity, our proceeds do contribute to good causes such as our student awards or donations to established educational charities. Contributing to the NCS as an officer could be a first step towards broadening your own CV with a view to subsequent wider involvement in the third sector. If you are in a business such involvement may well help you to meet ESG requirements under the 'social responsibility' umbrella.

No particular background is required: you don't need to have studied at Cambridge as an undergraduate, just be willing to contribute and have a sense of fun.

If you would like to discuss privately via social media or for a coffee, please contact me on

simon.brickles@cantab.net

From the Editor

Spring does seem finally to be sprung (or to be springing at least) and with it come changes at the NCS. After several years of valued service, Mu Gurbutt has decided to step down from our committee. Many of you will know her from our social and cultural activities and as the person welcoming you to our lectures. Fortunately, Mu will be maintaining her membership and involvement with us. We would like to thank her publicly for her dedication and for being such a friend and keen supporter of the Norfolk Cambridge Society. We also hope that some of you will seriously consider Simon's invitation to join the committee. We would particularly like to welcome some younger blood!

As mentioned in a previous newsletter member James Firebrace now chairs the East of England Royal Geographical Society. He, and we, are anxious to develop links between our two associations and to this effect you will find details below of upcoming RGS events. Andrew Clarke who is speaking at the RGS this coming Thursday (April 4th) is in fact also an active NCS member.

Don't forget we welcome contributions and reminiscences from members for publication in the newsletter.

Kathy Moyse ajskcm@btinternet.com

NCS Public Lectures

Nineteenth NCS Lecture

Our nineteenth public lecture was held on Thursday 29th February at Norwich School on the topic 'Criminal Justice in England – How Good is the System?' It was delivered by the leading prosecuting barrister in the country, Tom Little KC, First Senior Treasury Counsel, who held the packed audience riveted throughout. The grim picture he painted was of a fundamentally sound system close to breaking point under the pressure of chronic underfunding by successive governments. The policing system is seriously undermanned, there are too few criminal barristers because they are too poorly paid, the courts have huge backlogs and the prisons are full to bursting. Britain has a far higher incarceration rate than most other Northern European countries and a significantly higher rate of recidivism. In spite of this, the impression was given that we have not in the past invested much in learning from other countries, regarding them as too culturally different. It was both fascinating and alarming to hear such open concern emanating from such a very distinguished figure operating at the top of his profession. Nearly three hundred people attended and the questions after the lecture flowed thick and fast.

Twentieth NCS Public Lecture



Our twentieth lecture will be held on **Monday 10th June from 6.30pm** and will be delivered by Simon McDonald, Lord McDonald of Salford, former Permanent Secretary at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and former Head of the Diplomatic Service. He is now Master of Christ's College, Cambridge. His topic will be 'Lessons from a Life in Diplomacy'. Lord McDonald's lecture will contain a wide-ranging analysis of the challenges of effective diplomacy in the modern world and what it takes to operate and lead at the highest levels of government. He will discuss the use of hard and soft power and the role that Britain can still play in making the world a safer place. Finally, he will set out his thoughts on the changes that need to take place in the structure of government in order to deliver a more effective service for the British people. This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear first-hand from a recently retired top civil servant how Britain manages its relationships with the rest of the world and how the governance of our country could be improved.

The lecture is already sold out in the Blake Studio with two months to go. It is therefore possible that we shall again reach full capacity in the Refectory and have to turn people away. Best to register now if you wish to secure a seat! Just visit <https://norfolkcambridgesociety.org.uk> for details of how to do this.

Geoffrey Smart

Purchasing Your Tickets Online: A Reminder.

With increased interest in our lectures we have moved to automated ticketing. Ticket Tailor is 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 the Cambridge Norfolk Society's website <https://norfolkcambridgesociety.org.uk/>. You can also create an online account directly with Ticket Tailor.

NCS Book Group

Our last meeting was held on March 27th and provided a very lively discussion (and much reminiscence from some) of *On the Cusp: Days of '62* by David Kynaston. The general consensus from those who 'remembered the '60s' was that actually they were probably less of a cusp, especially for women, than the 1970s. We did agree with the author on the importance of The Beatles both culturally and musically so that was alright!

Our next meeting will be via Zoom on **Monday May 13th at 6.30pm** when we'll be discussing *The Great Swindle* by Pierre Le Maitre.

We now have 17 members signed up, not all of whom attend every session, although we are generally 8 or 9. If you would like to join us please email at the address that follows.

Kathy Moyse

ajskcm@btinternet.com

Viewpoints is currently suspended. Please contact Geoffrey if you would like to take this on.



Epicureans



Our next outing will be lunch at **Benoli 5, Orford St, Norwich on Thursday 6th June from 12.30pm**. We can have the table until 5pm. It comes recommended by several of our stalwarts and Grace Dent had this to say in The Guardian: 'If Benoli was closer to my house, I would eat here a lot.' In terms of style I think Italian/Asian fusion best describes the cuisine. Depending on numbers we will eat either from the usual menu or from their 'prix fixe' option. The cost on the day will be shared amongst attendees (unless we have the prix fixe) including drinks with the meal. A deposit may or may not be payable, again depending on numbers. I will email details of any menu options and deposit due once I know how many are coming. Check out the menu here: <https://benolirestaurant.com/>

To book a place email me as below **by the end of Monday 27th May**.

Kathy Moyse ajskcm@btinternet.com

Incrementum Lunchtime Investment Group



Our Norfolk Club-based Investment Group has undergone a major change in fortunes since our slimming down of the portfolio earlier this year. The gains on our top three investments since purchase within the last two years have extended to 460%, 250% and 90%. Overall our portfolio is up 29%. Whether this is down to luck or good judgement is hard to say but the discussions are always entertaining, the atmosphere jovial and the bonhomie delightful. No money has to be put up but, of course, anyone is free to take the plethora of tips brought forth at these meetings and invest in them themselves. Those who choose the winners will certainly make money. We run the group jointly with The Norfolk Club and are always pleased to welcome new members.

Dates for this year: Monday 15th April, Monday 3rd June, Monday 16th September, Monday 9th December.

Geoffrey Smart

geoffreyjsmart@gmail.com

East of England Royal Geographical Society Events

Our Norwich events are held at the Blake Studio, Norwich School with parking just outside. Glass of wine available from 7.00 pm for a 7.30 start. We seek to make our events topical within the wide brief that Geography now offers.

Our next event is **Thursday 4th April** when Professor Andrew Clarke, with a long career in the British Antarctic Survey, will introduce us to the wildlife of the Antarctic continent as well as impacts and future prospects in the light of climate change. The melting Arctic is very much in the news, and Andrew will explain what is happening at the other pole - different but still alarming.

Looking further ahead we have:

Tuesday 7th May: Professor John Shears on *Shackleton's Ship Beneath the Ice* after the discovery in March 2022 of his ship The Endurance. This lecture is at the earlier time of 5.00pm and is primarily aimed at a school audience, but all ages are welcome. RGS in London currently have an exhibition of the most extraordinary photos taken from Shackleton's expeditions – open till October and well worth a visit.

Thursday 16th May: Sir John Sawers with Nicholas Crane discussing *Geopolitics, Conflict and the United Nations*. This will take an overview of topical conflicts and their implications for the UN and the Security Council. Sir John had an ambassadorial career in the Middle East and Africa, culminating in UK Ambassador to the UN, Foreign Affairs adviser to a succession of British Prime Ministers and finally heading MI6. The discussion will be led by Nick Crane, who grew up in Norfolk, is a former President of RGS, a well well-known broadcaster.

Thursday 6th June: Fraser Bradbury leading a guided walk on the Westacre Estate (PE32 1UA), exploring the grounds and explaining the Estate's efforts in biodiversity management and rewilding.

To book any of these click on [Upcoming events - RGS](#). I understand persistence will sometimes be needed as RGS updates its IT systems. In case of any difficulty booking please email events@rgs.org. Some of these events are getting booked up so register early to secure a place.

James Firebrace

Afternoon Tea and Chanters Jigge. Wednesday 22nd May. Wacton Hall, Sallow Lane, NR15 2UL



After the success of last year's event we are again marking the start of summer with afternoon tea accompanied by a celebration of English music. Weather permitting the event will be outside at a recently restore Norfolk Long House.

Chanters Jigge 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 them about the songs and the 20 different traditional and modern instruments they play. 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 book using Ticket Tailor please click on the link that follows:
<https://buytickets.at/norfolkcambridgesociety/1212583>

Kathy Moyse

Exhibition of Ukrainian War Photographs

An exhibition of Ukrainian war photographs will be held in central Norwich from early May. They have been provided by Major Oleksandr Bielov, the officer in charge of most of the Ukrainian Army's media communications. He has just turned sixty and is planning to retire to Norfolk later this year to be with his family, who are already living here. The photographs were taken by a Ukrainian sergeant attached to his unit, who was formerly a professional photographer. They are extraordinarily powerful and moving.

The theme of the exhibition will be *Pain & Struggle* and its objectives will be to give British people a deeper understanding of the realities of modern warfare and its impact on Ukraine. The photographs depict modern weaponry in action, the conditions in which soldiers and civilians are having to live, the devastation of buildings and infrastructure, the emotional impact on the people and many tender moments amongst the horrors.

It is hoped that the exhibition will help those attending to reflect on the importance of defending democracy, the adequacy of international support that Ukraine is receiving and the possible impact of war on our own country if the conflict in Ukraine is allowed to spread. This is a subject dear to our hearts as we have until recently hosted a Ukrainian refugee family.

A very generous Norfolk businessman is providing a large amount of temporarily empty office space, in central Norwich, to enable us to house the exhibition. Other individuals have begun pledging funds to help us meet the costs of printing and mounting the photographs. More donations are still needed. We are also in urgent need of volunteer gallery attendants. The exhibition space will be available from 1am to 4pm Monday to Friday but it is the availability of volunteer attendants to keep an eye on the photographs that will determine when the gallery is open. All volunteers will need to do is arrive on time and stay for either three hours or six. They can bring family members and friends with them to keep them company and share the load. Desks will be provided and there will be plenty of time to work on other things while you are there.

Please email exhibition.norwich@gmail.com if you would like to help, indicating how much time you are able to offer. If you cannot be a volunteer, we hope you will come and visit the exhibition anyway. Entry will be free. Opening hours will be shown on the NCS website nearer the time.

Geoffrey & Charlotte Smart



Contacts

For information about the Society, events and meetings please take a look at our **website** ably maintained by Peter Smith who can be contacted at pdgsmith@hotmail.com if you would like to add anything

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

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