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THE DOWNING COLLEGE MAGAZINE / 2019 / VOLUME 30

Variety in Harmony

John Hopkins
Remembered

40 Years of Women:
Leaders and Suffragists



IN CONVERSATION WITH THE MASTER, ALAN BOOKBINDER



INTERVIEW BY DR ANTONIO FERRAZ DE OLIVEIRA
WHITWORTH FELLOW IN GEOGRAPHY

MR ALAN BOOKBINDER AND DR ANTONIO FERRAZ DE OLIVEIRA
BOTH JOINED THE FELLOWSHIP IN OCTOBER 2018. THEY CAME
TOGETHER TO DISCUSS LEADERSHIP OF THE COLLEGE.

AFdO: *What are your first impressions of Downing – has being a Master fitted your expectations? Is it turning out as anticipated?*

AB: I hoped it would be enjoyable and it has turned out to exceed my expectations. I've found Downing a delightful place to be, a beautiful environment, full of stimulating people and a really energetic and diverse community. It's terrific to be a part of that.

AFdO: *A number of senior BBC executives have become Oxbridge heads of house – why do you think this is?*

AB: I used to think when I was in the BBC that it was a place full of ambitious, clever, creative people who got frustrated because there weren't enough decisions to go round. Coming here is a release from that. It's a more satisfying place for creative people who are intellectually curious, who want to be productive, and who work well in teams. So the demands are similar, but the pleasures are greater.

AFdO: *Master, will you be travelling to meet alumni – in the UK and overseas?*

AB: I have already had the chance to meet alumni in Edinburgh and London, and I'm looking forward to going further afield. Downing alumni get just about everywhere in the world and I will very much enjoy meeting many this coming year in the States and in Asia, where we have a big contingent. I'm looking forward to hearing about their experience when they were in College, their achievements since then, and their views about where Downing should be going.

AFdO: *And what do you think are the characteristics of a successful College?*

AB: I think a successful College is a harmonious and productive community, where Fellows, students and staff are

mutually supportive, where intellectual insights are shared, where Fellows pass on not simply their knowledge but their curiosity and their love of learning.

AFdO: *And what about a successful head of house?*

AB: Well, I think a successful head of house sets the right tone, encourages high academic standards and nurtures mutual support. You are in a position to encourage students to have wider intellectual horizons than their immediate coursework, and to take advantage of the broader, fuller life that the College and Cambridge have to offer.

AFdO: *You'll be at Downing for several years – what developments can we expect to see in this time?*

AB: I think the core aim is to maintain high academic standards while ensuring there are opportunities for students to have a balanced, satisfying life here. The College will need to be resilient financially and sustainable educationally, by which I mean we need to fill one or two gaps in our teaching provision. We need to make sure we are fit to meet the challenges that Downing, in common with other Colleges, is going to face.

AFdO: *What do you think is the biggest challenge facing Downing?*

AB: I think the biggest challenges are political and there are two of them. One is the cut in tuition fees which I think we will see fairly soon. That's very good news for students, but not so good for the College's

revenue. It's not clear that the Government will fully make up the gap. The other is from Brexit and affects the University's research income, which will have a knock-on effect for the College. There's a question-mark over European partnerships, both in terms of funding and also whether talented EU scholars will want to come and work here to the same extent as they do now.

AFdO: *How has life changed for today's students compared to previous generations?*

AB: What I notice is an increased sense of competitiveness: for good degrees, for good jobs, and also for projecting a happy and successful image of oneself. Everything seems to be more intense. Students arrive here having competed heavily at A' level and they bring with them a determined approach. There are some good aspects of that, but it can create unhealthy levels of stress and high expectations, which I think have some negative effects.

The other big change is in technology – the way smartphones have changed people's lives, the speed and instant nature of communication, and the ubiquity of social media that has created all sorts of expectations.

AFdO: *Finally, in such an intense place as Cambridge, how do you relax and switch off?*

AB: For me it's by watching sport – I've been enjoying College rowing, rugby and football. I'm a season ticket holder at Watford too; not always a relaxing experience, but a good distraction.

DR ANTONIO FERRAZ DE OLIVEIRA matriculated at Downing in 2010 and was admitted to the Fellowship on his return in October 2018. His current research focuses on the *longue durée* intellectual history of territory in nineteenth-century political and geographical thought. The Whitworth Fellowship was generously funded by a legacy from John Nelthorpe Whitworth 1949.

40 Years of Women CONSERVATION AND LEADERSHIP IN THE ANTARCTIC

BY DAISY HESSENBERGER 2010
FORMER LEWIN-FRITSCH PHD STUDENT IN PHYCOLOGY

APPROACHING 2020, THE 40 YEARS OF WOMEN SERIES
FOCUSES ON DAISY HESSENBERGER WHO, TOGETHER WITH
A DOWNING BEAR, JOINED AN 80-STRONG EXPEDITION
OF WOMEN IN STEM TO THE ANTARCTIC.

After finishing a BA at Queens' College, I moved to Downing to start my PhD in evolutionary genetics having been awarded the Lewin-Fritsch Studentship for graduate research into algae. This allowed me to study the genetic and epigenetic inheritance in the unicellular green algae *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* (nickname Chlamy) in relation to using algae as a renewable source of energy. For four years I researched this delightful alga – Chlamy was a constant in my life.

After leaving Downing, the one thing that has remained constant is my contact with other Downing graduates – everything else has changed! I went from an academic to a comedian, who works in conservation for her day job and who then stands up for gender equality in her free time.

Initially, I worked in open-access academic publishing in Switzerland, where I loved asking experts in the field to explain

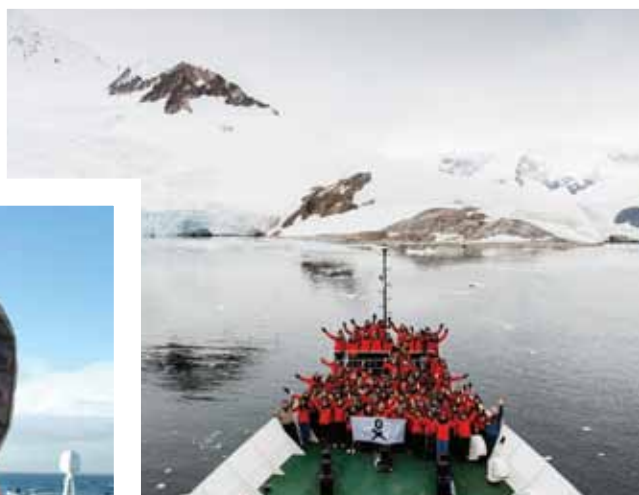
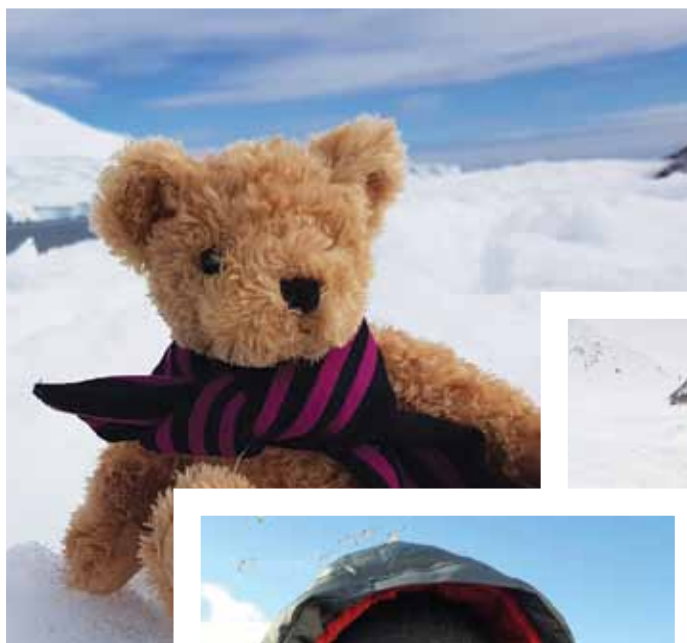
complex theories to a beginner. I found this was not what I wanted to specialise in. So I quit and spent three months doing field work in Madagascar, working with lemurs in the littoral forests of the South. It was hard work, living in a tent most of the time, but it cemented what I already knew – I wanted to work in conservation.

This led me to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature where I work on how nature can help people – for example, restoring mangrove forests to protect people from storm surges and rising sea levels.

Somewhere along the way I became a comedian and a communicator – I perform monthly in an improv show for scientists with my group, CatCave9. In collaboration with a colleague, I also translate original research into infographics in our blog, Pineapples and Whales. This all stems from my belief that science and its methodology needs to be better communicated.

During my PhD at the Department of Plant Sciences, I met Madeline Mitchell – we connected in the tea room over a mutual love of coffee and Chlamy. So when she mentioned to me that she was heading to Antarctica to promote women in science, I was hooked. I followed her journey and saw what a difference it made, and she encouraged me all along the way; so the day before leaving for Madagascar I submitted my 3-minute video as part of my Homeward Bound application.

Cut to three months later and I am standing in a field in Madagascar, my hand in the air, holding up my mobile phone hoping to 'catch' some signal. I could see an email from Homeward Bound in my inbox but couldn't see the content. It was surreal finding out that I had been accepted on this incredible expedition to one of the coldest places on Earth while then heading back to sweat it out in my tent.



It is thanks to support from friends, family and Downing that I can take part in Homeward Bound. Downing has also supported my growth as a leader. It was as Downing MCR President, working on installing paddock lights and negotiating rental increases, that my leadership skills were first put to the test. The Homeward Bound expedition now serves to hone them further.

Antarctica is where you can see the impact of climate change and I will use this experience to motivate me further. Stories are powerful – the stories that I collect from this expedition will be shared, whether through a blog or podcast, and I will be returning to Downing to share what I have learnt.

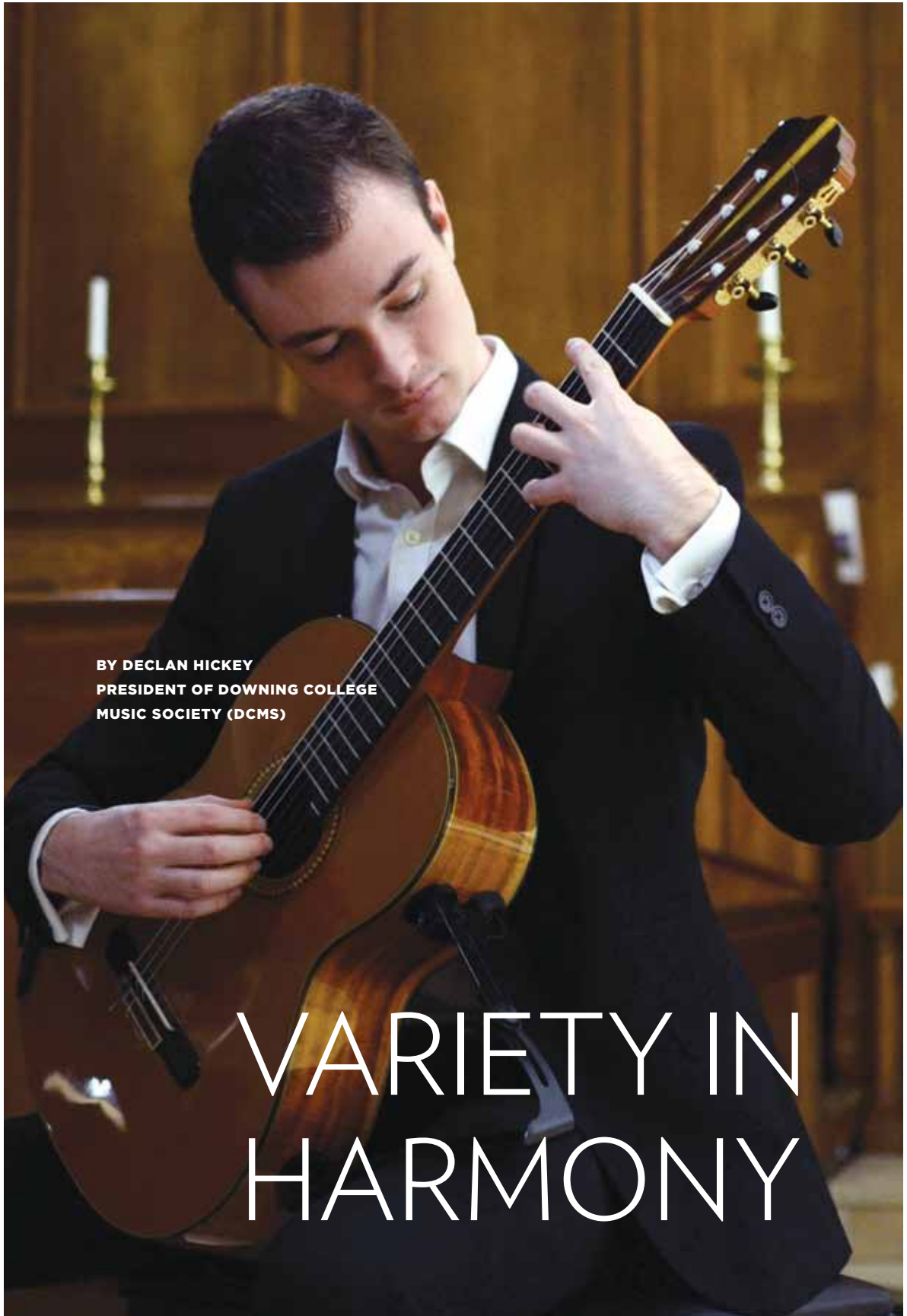
I will also be joining (eventually) a 1,000-woman strong group of allies. Every woman has a voice, but together we make a megaphone, not just about what climate change means to feminism, but what feminism can do in the face of climate change.

About HOMEWARD BOUND

Set against the background of Antarctica, the Homeward Bound Project is a ground-breaking science initiative for women. It aims to heighten the influence and impact of women in *STEM* on policy and decision making as it shapes our planet. The scheme will build a global network of 1,000 women with scientific backgrounds over a period of ten years.



At the time of writing, Daisy was due on New Year's Eve 2018 to head across the roughest seas on the planet, Drake Passage, with 79 other women in STEM spending three weeks in a ship together as part of this leadership programme. She sported the Downing Griffin on her trip and will return to Downing to share her experience later this year.



BY DECLAN HICKEY
PRESIDENT OF DOWNING COLLEGE
MUSIC SOCIETY (DCMS)

VARIETY IN HARMONY

MY EXPERIENCES AT THE JUNIOR DEPARTMENT
OF A CONSERVATOIRE IN LONDON WERE
HUGELY SIGNIFICANT IN SHAPING MY DECISION
TO STUDY MUSIC.

Realising that I could study the subject that had transformed so much of my childhood in the academically rigorous environment of a place like Cambridge was an exciting prospect. The Cambridge tripos caters to my interests in the history of western art music, and in the more theoretical realm of score analysis and harmony and counterpoint.

I've been delighted to discover that Downing has fantastic spaces for music-making, and a strong community that recognises the importance of music to College life. The Music Room on E Staircase has proved an excellent venue for formal recitals, including a recent evening of Bartók and Debussy presented by the Arc Quartet, one of the University's finest Instrumental Award Scheme ensembles. The Chapel has an ideal acoustic for choral music, which the Chapel Choir puts to great use in its regular services of Choral Evensong and Compline. It's also been a frequent home to the sound of plucked strings in recent years, with classical guitar and lute recitals.

The Heong Gallery is increasingly becoming a primary space for contemporary music connected to the relevant exhibitions and has recently hosted DCMS acts as diverse as jazz sextets and unaccompanied Baroque 'cello. The Howard Theatre offers the opportunity for larger-scale productions, including the recent 'Ballet Russes', a small ensemble of ballet dancers performing to the live music of Stravinsky, Chopin, Saint-Saëns and others. Lastly, the beautiful surroundings of the Master's Lodge have, by the kind permission of its incumbents, played host to a range of events, including a number of harpsichord recitals — both amateur and professional. In addition, we're lucky to have a number of Fellows and non-academic staff who attend, organise, and perform at musical events.

The student-run DCMS provides a great platform for students to get involved with music, regardless of their experience and aptitude. When I took over the presidency last year, I wanted the society to be a route to performance for any musicians in the College, whatever their preferred genre. It is a great joy to be

able to provide keen musicians with the opportunity to perform. Events are always open to everyone, from the Freshers' Recital to the termly, less formal 'open-mic' nights and the ever-popular Downing Jazz Band nights in the bar.

Until recently, Downing was one of the few Colleges in Cambridge without a Director of Music, and the students organised its musical activities. David Lowe, Downing's first Director of Music, assists the Choir and the Organ Scholars during rehearsals, works closely with DCMS on its term cards, and is a supportive presence at all of our concerts. It is to David's credit that he has encouraged Downing to remain a College where students have the opportunity to conduct: an increasingly rare feature in Cambridge, and one that the Organ Scholars cherish. Downing has recently hosted a number of theatrical productions involving and highlighting music. A recent Downing Dramatic Society production of Dylan Thomas's 'Under Milk Wood' brought the relationship between music and drama to the fore (perhaps unsurprisingly in a play originally conceived for radio) with a number of familiar faces from Downing's musical community. Beyond the Howard Theatre, Downing ensembles are often in demand, performing at garden parties and other society events.

The future is bright for music at College. The success of the Chapel Choir (including a full-to-capacity Advent Carol Service in London for alumni) has made the likelihood of a CD recording even greater. DCMS will continue to run its wonderfully varied series of concerts over the next 12 months, to include: a wind quintet recital, an evening of chamber music for classical guitar and other instruments, the Trumpington Street Orchestra's Lent Term Concert, and an exploration of the songs of Judeo-Spanish women — an important item in the first-ever Cambridge Female Composers' Festival. Our new Director of Music also looks forward to welcoming back various alumni and other up-and-coming young professionals to perform at Downing. The only conceivable result is an ever-growing reputation for music at Downing College.

For more information on how to support Music and The Arts at Downing, please contact Catherine Middleton on 01223 334850 or cm475@dow.cam.ac.uk

Jack's vision for the gardens continues to be the creation of an environment that benefits the wellbeing of the whole College community.

SPACE AND SYMMETRY IN THE GARDENS

BY BECKY PROCTOR
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

DOWNING'S SPECIAL ATMOSPHERE IS IN PART DUE TO OUR SPACIOUS AND PEACEFUL GROUNDS IN THE HEART OF A BUSY CITY.



The Gardens and Grounds Team works hard to maintain the College's 20-acre site, and the past two years have been even busier than usual with a number of new schemes outlined in consultant Alice Foxley's Landscape Master Plan.

Downing Head Gardener Jack Sharp, who joined the College in 2017, has overseen the implementation of these changes while also completing his RHS Master of Horticulture qualification. It may come as no surprise that he submitted his 10,000 word dissertation on the chafer grub and the science of lawns. Jack and his team have been tackling extensive damage to the Downing lawns caused by chafer grub infestations, an



Jack Sharp (centre), with gardeners Chris Light and Stacey Braybrook, in East Lodge Garden

endemic problem for many Cambridge Colleges in recent years. A more rigorous lawn maintenance schedule has been introduced – with regular scarifying, seeding and spiking – and a return to a traditional cylinder mower. These measures will improve the health of the lawns and make infestations less likely to re-occur.

The East Lodge Garden has been a focus of many changes, including the installation of the Hepworth sculpture ‘Two Forms (Divided Circle)’, kindly on loan from the Hepworth Estate. Several trees have been repositioned and, in a first for Downing, new meadow planting with bulbs, wild flowers and grasses has been added. Using a more

architectural style of planting, loosely based on Hepworth’s own garden in Cornwall, the scheme will introduce splashes of colour once in flower.

Borders have also been introduced with great effect at the gable ends of both the East and West Ranges, with a mixture of shrubs and herbaceous planting, as well as an abundance of spring flowering bulbs. The new borders enhance the symmetry of the buildings and the main route through the College. In the Lensfield Road rear gardens, a programme of planting fruit trees has begun, including quinces, plums, gages, pears and an old Cambridge variety of apple, ‘Chivers Delight’.

Jack’s vision for the gardens continues to be the creation of an environment that benefits the wellbeing of the whole College community. A new Master has brought opportunities to reimagine the Lodge garden this year, along with improvements to the nearby Rose Garden, and a brand new water feature close to First Court is also set to delight all those who walk through the College gates in 2019.

To support Downing’s Domus, please contact Catherine Middleton on 01223 334850 or cm475@dow.cam.ac.uk

JOHN HOPKINS REMEMBERED

(1936–2018)

BY DR BRENDAN PLANT,
HOPKINS PARRY FELLOW

JOHN HOPKINS' TOWERING CONTRIBUTION
TO THE STUDY OF LAW AT DOWNING COLLEGE
IS WELL KNOWN AND RIGHTLY CELEBRATED.

He was a Fellow of the College and Director of Studies in Law for over 40 years, and with his inimitable style and tireless dedication to teaching, he did more than anyone to strengthen Downing's reputation for excellence in the study of law and to nurture a vibrant community of students, academics and alumni. When John retired from Downing in 2004, he was described at his retirement celebration as 'without doubt, one of the greatest teachers in the common law world'.

And yet, John's contribution to teaching did not end there. Animated by an evidently indefatigable enthusiasm for teaching, and possessed of an apparently endless supply of energy and generosity, John continued to share his insight and wit with a wide range of students for many years, almost to the very end of his distinguished life.

The details of these ongoing endeavours are perhaps less familiar to members of the Downing community. But it is impossible to give a complete account of John's remarkable legacy, or to pay a fittingly full homage to the memory of his immense contribution, without recalling the many



A Memorial Service for John Hopkins will be held on Saturday 4 May 2019 at Great St Mary's Church.

Please contact development@dow.cam.ac.uk if you wish to attend.

and varied ways in which John continued to share his unique talent for teaching after his Downing retirement.

After he retired from the Downing Fellowship and his University Lectureship in 2004, John continued to shape the minds and cultivate the ambitions of Cambridge law students for many years. He carried on in his role as Director of Studies in Law at Hughes Hall for a further eight years until 2012, and he is recalled with great affection by Hughes Hall alumni for the care, attention and advice he offered them during their studies. So, too, the Hughes Hall Fellowship held John in high esteem, and in 2012 they elected him to an Honorary Fellowship in recognition of his contribution to their community. John also kept up his teaching for other Cambridge Colleges for many years after his retirement, and he supervised Peterhouse students in the International Law Tripos paper all the way through until 2017. One can be sure that John's distinctive lessons, punctuated with provocative anecdotes, live on in the memory of students from all corners of Cambridge.

A champion of Cambridge through and through, John continually cherished his connections with Queens' College, where he had studied law as an undergraduate, and Girton College, where his wife, Cherry, remains a Life Fellow today.

John's legacy also reaches across the Atlantic. 35 years ago, John was instrumental in establishing an annual law summer school at Downing College, together with a consortium of universities from the United States, led by the University of Mississippi and including the University of Arkansas, the University of Tennessee and the University of Nebraska. The Cambridge Study Abroad Program is today one of the longest-running and best-respected of the US legal summer schools. It enjoys full accreditation by the American Bar Association, and attracts a diverse group of around 50 students each

year, drawn from graduate law programmes across the United States.

John delivered a lecture series on public international law at the summer school every year until 2018, when ill-health prevented him from continuing, and each year the students and visiting faculty alike would nominate his presentations as a highlight of their time in the UK. The Americans viewed John as the quintessential Cambridge don, and he played this role with relish, aplomb, and more than a sprinkle of mischief. He would delight in introducing the students to the intricacies and absurdities of international politics, and in explaining to them the exigencies and eccentricities of the English legal system. With his MCC tie proudly hanging from his neck, he would escort the students on visits to Middle Temple, where he was an Honorary Bencher since 1981, and he would regale them with amusing after-dinner stories of famous court cases and infamous cricket matches. The students were in awe, and always appreciative of his humour and experience. One of the professors who visited the Downing summer school recently remarked that John's lectures left her 'with a renewed appreciation for the process of teaching, the value of active engagement, and a reinvigorated enthusiasm for the process of legal education through dialogue... John Hopkins was a skilled educator who made the issues seem relevant, understandable, and memorable.'

Like any of us who had the pleasure and privilege of knowing John, our American friends came to admire the depth of his kindness and the breadth of his knowledge just as fully as they loved the twinkle in his eye and the twists in his tales. In the US as in the UK, John will be remembered fondly.

The John Hopkins Fund will support College needs in supervisions and tutors. For information, please contact Jo Finnie Jones on 01223 334850 or jcf45@dow.cam.ac.uk

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Development News

IT IS A PLEASURE to introduce myself to you as the new Director of Advancement at Downing. Over the last six months, I have enjoyed immersing myself into College life and meeting with our alumni here and further afield.

The strength of the Downing community is palpable and extends through our alumni networks worldwide. I would like to thank you for your continued interest in and support to the College. We are grateful to those who contribute their time to the Downing College Alumni Association, as Year Representatives, as members of the Investment Committee and informally by sharing their advice.

Gifts from our alumni help us to advance Downing's founding mission and provide security for its future. In the past year, donations have established the Kim and Julianna Silverman Fellowship; advanced medical research and teaching through the Oon Funds and Oon Fellowship in Clinical Medicine; awarded grants to many students in financial need; supported student sports and College cultural life; and contributed towards the improvement of our historic buildings.

All of this is only possible because of the generosity of our community of alumni and friends. Thank you.



Warm regards,
JO FINNIE JONES
Fellow and Director of Advancement

Alumni and Development in Numbers



£2.8m

Donated in the last financial year to the College



1,337

Gifts received from alumni and friends



£270k

Donated by alumni in just two weeks in our 'phone campaign'



8,339

Contactable alumni across the globe



278

Members of the 1749 Society who have pledged legacies to Downing



30

Events organised around the world attended by 1,220 alumni and guests



75

Alumni volunteers working with their year group



5

Members of the Development team



4

Key areas of support: students, staff, teaching, buildings

Our Priorities

The College has launched three special fundraising appeals this year: in memory of the late John Hopkins; to endow a Fund to support a new College Teaching Officer in Economics; and to establish a rowing fund in recognition of Leo Judd's outstanding contribution to rowing over 50 years of coaching. Alongside these priorities, we are seeking gifts towards studentships and scholarships to help talented students from all backgrounds to experience a Downing education and to support the student experience here, through the arts, music and sport.

ECONOMICS FUND APPEAL

DOWNING HAS A GREAT TRADITION in Economics, reaching back to former Bursar Malcolm Fisher in the 1960s, and beyond. Results in Economics have been excellent, and frequently outstanding, with twenty-one students achieving Firsts in the last three years. Downing graduates in Economics have gone on to achieve at the highest levels in their chosen careers.

This record of achievement in Economics is under threat due to difficulties we (like many other Colleges) face in recruiting academics to undertake College-based supervisions. As a matter of urgency and in order to secure the teaching of Economics at Downing, the College has resolved to raise £1.3 million to endow an Economics Fund. Income from the Fund will, in the first instance, be used to support a Fellowship in Economics, enabling the College to employ a Teaching Officer. In time, it is hoped that the Fund will support further teaching and studentships in Economics.



Richard Williams

A lead gift from Richard Williams, Economics 1967, has made a significant start towards the target and will be recognised with co-naming of the Fellowship. Richard explains why he has made this commitment: *"I have always valued and appreciated the opportunity Downing gave me to study economics at Cambridge, so when the Vice Master told me there was a possibility the College may no longer be able to offer this subject to new undergraduates, I thought we should do something about it. An endowed Fellowship in Economics for Downing will guarantee continuity of teaching in College."*

We invite alumni to consider making a gift to secure the future of Economics at Downing.

The John Hopkins Teaching and Tutorial Fund

JOHN HOPKINS WAS a teacher, mentor and friend for 43 years to generations of students at Downing College. His loss has been felt by Downing alumni around the world. We invite you to share your memories of John with us by email, letter and in the Book of Condolences that is held in the Development Office and will be available at the Memorial Service on 4 May 2019.

The John Hopkins Fund has been established in his memory and will be used to support College Tutors, who are crucial to the pastoral care of our students, and for Supervisions, to allow the Senior Tutor and his team the flexibility to respond to changing needs in all subjects. Please consider making a gift to the Fund and all donors will be recognised in the John Hopkins Fund Donor List 2019.

IF YOU WOULD like further information on any of our priorities, please contact Jo Finnie Jones at jcf45@dow.cam.ac.uk

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



'I look back with ever increasing fondness on my time at Downing. It was truly transformative, and I appreciate greatly all the support the College has given me both as an undergraduate and since. Downing made an important contribution to my life and I

am extremely happy to contribute back in any way I can, including a legacy in my Will. I know it's essential that the College continues to nurture and support its students and more funds are always needed.'

ALISON MAYCOCK 1983, Medicine



1749 Society

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

The Development team is on hand to help you, please contact them on the emails below.

Making a gift or updating your contact details:

Claire Varley: cav10@dow.cam.ac.uk

Events and reunions:

Rachel Kirkley: rmw46@dow.cam.ac.uk

Legacy information, Year Reps, Downing Enterprise:

Susan Esden: sal53@dow.cam.ac.uk

Director of Advancement:

Jo Finnie Jones jcf45@dow.cam.ac.uk

Director of Alumni Engagement and Operations:

Cat Middleton: cm475@dow.cam.ac.uk

THE COLOMBIAN KOGI

Ecology as Ontology*



BY FALK PARRA WITTE 2010

INTERESTED IN HOW
OTHER CULTURES
UNDERSTAND THE
WORLD OUTSIDE THE
WESTERN SCIENTIFIC
TRADITION, I CAME
TO DOWNING FOR A
MASTER'S IN SOCIAL
ANTHROPOLOGY.

I was intrigued by widespread references related to so-called 'supernatural' phenomena, such as nature spirits, earth forces, or magic. Becoming increasingly fascinated by a group of indigenous people in Colombia, the Kogi, I was accepted to continue to study for my PhD.

The Kogi live in the world's highest coastal mountain range, the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, a unique biodiverse ecosystem that rises abruptly from the Caribbean Sea to almost 6,000m, possessing all main climatic zones. They live scattered across deep valleys in lineages that correspond to different creational beings, natural elements and animals. They are recognised for their well-conserved traditions, strong spirituality, and elaborate ecological knowledge.

The Kogi are generally reserved and difficult to befriend. However, I was fortunate to gain

their trust as an interpreter in the making of a film, *Aluna*, about them. Kogi leaders intend the film to raise awareness among mainstream society about the current environmental degradation of the Sierra Nevada through mining, deforestation, dams and new infrastructure, and to protect it through political negotiations and legal mechanisms.

Such eco-political endeavours, however, are guided by the Kogi's radically different understanding of nature, such as its reliance on sacred sites or superhuman powers, which government officials, companies and scientists often do not comprehend and take seriously.

To clarify Kogi statements and practices, I needed to elucidate the meaning of Kogi concepts and contextualise their ecology as a whole way of being and knowing. This entailed a 'realist approach' that avoids both constructivist and relativist strands



Clockwise from L: Falk with the Kogi Mamas; Spiritual consultation at the sacred site Seichua; Ceremony re-paying Nature; Musicians at the ceremony



period resulted in a format for my thesis which was acceptable to my supporting Department (Social Anthropology). Meanwhile, I was thankful that Downing provided a comforting space away from the hustle and bustle.



To convey the holistic Kogi understanding that everything in life has an origin, an order, a function, and a deep interrelation, I developed an equivalent theoretical framework. Here, spiritual principles and creational events (cosmology) manifest as a tangible order of being that is lived and reproduced (ontology) through knowledge practices that teach the function of each element (epistemology) as a mutually balancing and sustaining web of relationships (ecology).

Revealing this complex living system was indispensable to appreciate how it influences the Kogi's eco-political efforts, and their understanding of environmental damage as a matter of systemic alteration through disorder and disease. For them this implies a moral responsibility with the world as a vast conscious entity, 'the Mother', to follow the natural norms that guide it, called 'the Law of Origin'. Consequently 'knowledge must always have a purpose in sustaining the world', which the Mamas also told me my research should serve.

in anthropology, and recognises Kogi statements and practices as truly *ontological*, that is as knowledge claims about the way things are. Kogi spiritual leaders, the Mamas, only accepted this research project to benefit wider understanding of their environmental cause.

As with all their important undertakings, the Mamas performed spiritual divinations which indicated that I should work with them along four main topics: water, earth, trees, and foodstuffs. Surprisingly, the Mamas thus led my ethnographic fieldwork through two years of structured learning sessions that, as I had expected, framed and clarified Kogi ecology within its cosmological framework.

By outlining the purposeful creation of all things, they explained the organisation of nature as a functional and balanced set of relations to be maintained.

These teachings were complemented with my practical experience of how they play out in daily Kogi life.

My time there entailed patience, intercultural sensibility, tiring tropical weather, battling mosquitoes, sleeping in hammocks, bathing in rivers, and suffering tropical illnesses. Officially approved by the Kogi Indigenous Organisation, I lived unobtrusively near a Kogi village, teaching English at a school where some of the Kogi children learn the ways of mainstream society and acquire the knowledge to defend their communities better.

It was a cultural challenge returning to an academic routine in Cambridge after immersion in such a different and life-changing, spiritual context. Moreover, there were many conceptual difficulties in expressing Kogi being and knowing in a scholarly manner. A prolonged writing-up

In this light, I continue my work with the Kogi to improve their communication strategy. Besides turning my thesis into a book and translating it into Spanish, I am forming alliances with academics, scientists and political institutions to develop projects that combine relevant interdisciplinary research with protecting the Sierra Nevada and that establish fruitful dialogues with indigenous knowledge to improve ecological relations.

After all, if knowledge should have an ecological purpose, academia can respond with a matching ethical initiative.

**Ontology: the branch of metaphysics dealing with the nature of being.*

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

DOWNING IS COMMITTED to providing a world-class education to the students with the most potential in each subject, whatever their means, social background or nationality. The College is an advocate for the Cambridge-wide initiative, launched in October 2018 which aims to raise £500m for student support.

Downing's appeal for Student Support helps to provide essential funds for undergraduate and graduate students who come from low income families, face unexpected financial need, or apply for funds for academic activity in the vacation to enhance their studies.

Your gifts in the last financial year have boosted funds for student support by £165,040 enabling Downing to award 447 such grants and scholarships. Every gift has added value to the student experience at Downing and all concerned are extremely grateful for your generosity.

Spotlight on **IRFAN ALLANA**



'I hope to work in France or Belgium in the future, so I was awarded funding which enabled a vacation trip to Lyon to improve my spoken French in the context of business and to learn about French business culture.

I had private French lessons each morning which focused on business and the law, as well as how to operate in a professional context. In my free time I was able to explore Lyon including a visit to the Museum of the Resistance where I learnt about the history of Lyon during the Second World War and the trial of Barbie who was convicted of crimes against humanity and sentenced to life imprisonment. I was also lucky enough to be in Lyon during the Festival of Lights – a period when the whole city is illuminated.

I was very grateful for this grant: I thoroughly enjoyed exploring the subtleties of the French language and learning about how negotiation tactics differ in France. I also enjoyed exploring the city and meeting with people from different countries and cultures at the language school.'

IRFAN ALLANA, Law undergraduate

GRANTS HAVE SUPPORTED

Shortfall in general funding

'My student loan does not cover living expenses after rent, so without these grants I would not have been able to support myself, let alone complete a degree.'

Your generosity does not go unappreciated. Many of my peers benefit from the hardship funds for the most basic of expenses, so they genuinely do make a massive difference to our standard of living.'

Student in HSPS

Unexpected financial need

'I applied for a grant as I needed to purchase a new laptop after my old one broke.'

I am very grateful for this money. Knowing that there are grants available, and that they are made known to students is a great contributor to good access and outreach at Downing and Cambridge. The process of applying for this grant, and receiving it confirmed that access issues after application are still taken seriously. The contribution of donors genuinely and positively impacts the lives of students at Downing.'

Student in Theology and Religious Studies

Vacation research projects

'I received a grant to help cover living expenses during a summer research project in the genetics department investigating the induction of the immune response in *Drosophila*. Without grants such as this I would not have been able to experience this type of research.'

Thank you for your great generosity and kindness. You have helped me experience work in a professional lab and made medical research a real possibility for me in the future.'

Student in Medicine



'Working as a school leader in a challenging urban setting, I see a very different side to education to the one I experienced at Downing. So many young people have the ability and potential to succeed at university but don't have the financial or cultural means to thrive once there. If, through a regular contribution, I can provide students with access to resources they otherwise wouldn't be able to fund, then I can feel satisfied in the small part I have played in their education.'

KATIE MARSHALL 2007, Management Studies –
Donor to Student Support

'THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY: I WOULD NOT BE HERE WITHOUT IT' • 'YOUR DONATIONS HAVE HELPED PAY FOR A DISABLED ROOM IN COLLEGE: THIS MEANS I CAN HAVE A BIT MORE INDEPENDENCE AND SPEND SOME TIME WITH MY FRIENDS AT DOWNING' • 'NEWS OF THE GRANT HAS LIFTED A SUBSTANTIAL WEIGHT FROM MY SHOULDERS' • 'THIS GRANT WILL HELP ME TO MAINTAIN MY ACCOMMODATION AND BASIC NEEDS – IT IS INSTRUMENTAL' • 'I HOPE ONE DAY I CAN DO SIMILAR TO HELP OTHER STUDENTS' • 'I WILL KEEP IT SIMPLE AND JUST SAY, **THANK YOU**'

From the Archives

BY JENNY ULPH
COLLEGE ARCHIVIST

PROFESSOR HOWARD MARSH Master, Suffragist and 'Patron of Municipal Service'

Professor Howard Marsh was Master of Downing College from 1907 until his death in 1915, after which he was described as having 'set up a tradition for Downing College as a patron... of municipal service.'¹ (Downing had hosted a garden party for the British Women's Temperance Association as early as 1902). However, 100 years later, surprisingly little was known about his wide-reaching interests and influence, other than his refusal in 1909 to impose the India Office's suggested cap on Indian students at Cambridge.²

Frederick Howard Marsh was Professor of Surgery at the University from 1903 and was Master of Downing during a time of promise and expansion, cut short by the outbreak of war. *The Cambridge Review* praised his 'interest in improving the conditions of life amongst the poor of Cambridge' and he was listed among attendees at town meetings on a variety of local issues. He was a University member of the Town Council, a member of the Watch Committee, a Justice of the Peace and a keen supporter of the Boy Scouts.

Of particular relevance this year is Professor Marsh's advocacy of the rights and skills of women. He supported their admission to the Royal College of Surgeons in 1908 and, in May 1909, he hosted a meeting in the Master's Lodge of the Provisional Committee established in Cambridge to encourage the promotion of women to local governing bodies. The meeting was attended by prominent local figures including the

Darwins, future mayor Florence Ada Keynes and Lady Jebb. In his opening speech, the Master praised the work women could do as a 'valuable national asset, which had not been sufficiently valued' and, referring to a friend's view 'that women should be kept in their place', he reportedly uttered that 'no one held such a view unless they were fastened like limpets on a rock'.³

After the outbreak of war, Professor Marsh argued in favour of women doctors, writing in a letter on the 'Scarcity of Doctors' (*The Cambridge Review*, 24 February 1915) that, as an examiner, he knew 'women who display every endowment and every qualification necessary for the higher levels of operative Surgery and whose results are as favourable as any obtained by men'. When he died just a few months later, the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association – of which he had been Vice-President – mourned the loss of 'a most resolute defender of the claims of women to political representation'. His obituary in *The Common Cause*, July 1915, described him as 'a Suffragist all his life, and a Suffragist not only in theory but in action... [who] did much to break down the prejudices against the activities of women.'

¹ *The Cambridge Chronicle and University Journal*, 15 Dec 1915

² Dr Teresa Segura-Garcia, 'Downing College and India' (*Dow@Cam*, 2015)

³ *The Cambridge Independent Press*, 21 May 1909. Special thanks to Antony Carpen (@Puffles2010) for alerting the College to press cuttings relating to Professor Marsh's attendance at various local meetings uncovered during his own research.

I READ THIS BOOK WHEN FIRST PUBLISHED IN 2017, THOROUGHLY ENJOYED IT, AND LEARNT A LOT. ONLY WITH THE APPEARANCE OF THIS SECOND EDITION DID I DISCOVER THAT ONE OF ITS AUTHORS, CECILIA BRASSETT, WAS A DOWNING ALUMNA.

Briefly, the authors take a selection of terms from human anatomy, which are explained and illustrated through simple but effective drawings. So the long leg-bone called the 'tibia' is named after the Latin for 'flute'; the thinner 'fibula' that accompanies it resembles the pin of a brooch, which is what the Latin means. The illustrations by Emily Evans are ingeniously contrived to demonstrate the connections between objects and their anatomical analogues. The terms are grouped under twenty-or-so headings, from Agriculture to Weaponry, taking in along the way, Animals, Architecture, Music, Plants, Tools, and many more.

The 'Secret Language' of the title reflects the reality that the great majority of anatomical terms derive from Latin or Greek. Although this practice has the advantage, as with botanical Latin, of establishing a terminology that is international, the current patchiness of Classical education potentially mystifies what it was originally meant to clarify. Not that knowledge of the Classics is an infallible guide to recognition and understanding. After fifty-five years learning Latin, it still came as an agreeable surprise that 'muscle' derives from *musculus*, the

Latin for 'little mouse'; the thinking being that 'the shape of a muscle belly and its tendon... resembles the rounded back and tail of a mouse.'

Other serendipitous discoveries include that the 'hyoid bone' in the neck (beloved of crime novelists, where its breaking indicates strangulation) resembles the Greek letter *hypsilon*; the 'buccinator' or cheek muscle is named for 'a Roman trumpeter' (understandably, after seeing photographs of Louis Armstrong energetically blowing his own trumpet); and 'styloid', a peg-like projection of bone forming an anchor for ligaments, derives from *stylos*, Greek for 'column' (the illustration of an Ionic column might be straight from the Downing Master's Lodge).

Taken together, the terms reflect the material side of the preindustrial world for which they were devised. Hence *falx* or 'sickle' for curved membranes in the cranial cavity; *sulci* or 'furrows' for the grooved surface of the brain. Five terms refer to aspects of the horse (*frenulum* or 'little bridle' denotes a ligament or membrane restraining an organ). But inventors occasionally seem to have been keen to show off their learning



Dr Cecilia Brassett

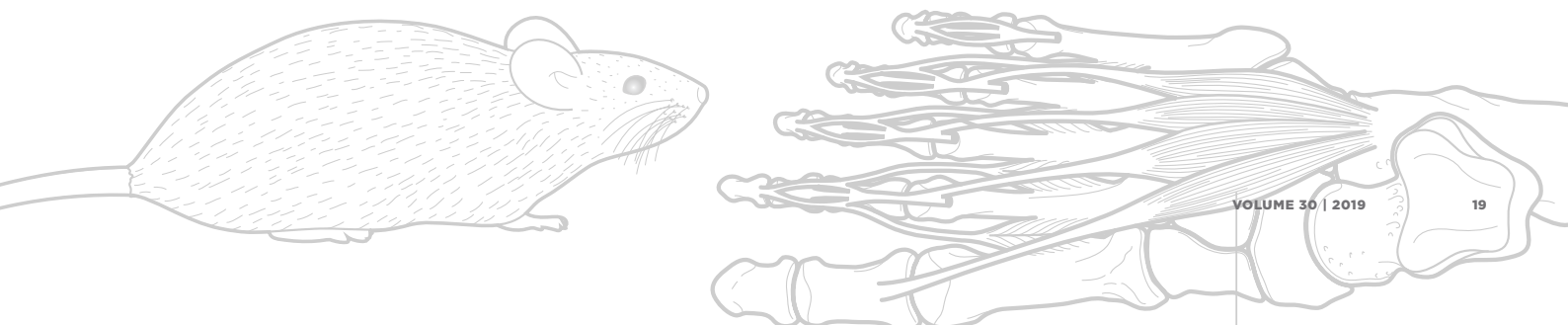
rather than invoke everyday life. The 'philtrum' or vertical groove on the upper lip (seized on by cartoonists as John Major's distinguishing feature) is conceivably named for the contours of an ancient glass bottle, such as might contain a love-philtre.

This rewarding book offers much more than entertainment. It has its origins in the Human Dissection Room in the Anatomy Building at Cambridge University; part of one of a diminishing number of medical schools where students learn their anatomy primarily through actual dissection. The text is followed by Appendices (*appendix*, Latin, 'that which hangs on') and Glossaries (*glossa*, Greek, 'tongue') detailing Latin and Greek word forms which, together with 'Further Reading', place a valuable resource in the hands of those acquiring a medical education (*educare*, Latin, 'to nourish, support').

THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF ANATOMY

An Illustrated Guide to the Origins of Anatomical Terms

By Cecilia Brassett, Emily Evans, and Isla Fay
(Anatomy Boutique Books, Chichester, 2018)



Events Calendar*

2019

SATURDAY 27 APRIL

Segreants' Regatta & Dinner

SATURDAY 4 MAY

Memorial Service for John Hopkins

FRIDAY 17 MAY

MA Dinner

SATURDAY 18 MAY

MA Congregation

SATURDAY 15 JUNE

Donors' Garden Party and May Bumps
Mays Dinner in Honour of Leo Judd

SATURDAY 22 JUNE

1961 Reunion Lunch

SATURDAY 13 JULY

1749 Society Garden Party
1994 Reunion Dinner

AUGUST

Alumni Gathering in Singapore

FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

Year Representatives' Meeting and Dinner

SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

Alumni Day and Association Dinner

THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER

London Advent Carol Service

THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER

Varsity Rugby Matches

2020

SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY

Mathias Dinner

THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY

Cranworth Dinner (Middle Temple, London)

SATURDAY 29 FEBRUARY

Griffins' Club Dinner

SATURDAY 4 APRIL

Annual Reunion Dinner

SATURDAY 16 MAY

MA Congregation & Dinner

SATURDAY 13 JUNE

Donors' Garden Party and May Bumps

SATURDAY 4 JULY

1970 Reunion Dinner

SATURDAY 11 JULY

1749 Society Garden Party

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

Year Representative's Meeting and Dinner

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Alumni Day & Association Dinner

*Events are subject to change.

WEDDINGS AT DOWNING COLLEGE



Hannah Duffy Photography

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT HOW WONDERFUL IT WOULD BE TO BE WELCOMED BACK TO BEAUTIFUL DOWNING FOR YOUR WEDDING DAY?

Benefits include:

- ◆ 10% exclusive alumni discount
- ◆ Dedicated Wedding Co-ordinator
- ◆ Exclusive wedding package catering for 80-140 guests
- ◆ En suite accommodation available on the Domus
- ◆ Beautiful architecture and tranquil gardens

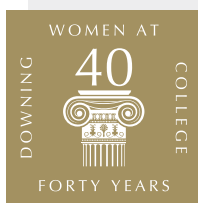
Did you know that alumni receive a 10% discount on wedding packages and, subject to availability, are able to marry in the Chapel. The College is also licensed for civil ceremonies in the Howard Building, Howard Theatre and the West Lodge. Importantly, as you are a part of the Downing community, the staff will take particular pride in making your day perfect.

For further information, please contact Kerry-Ann Grovell

T: 01223 334860 **E:** weddings@dow.cam.ac.uk

Our wedding brochure includes details of the possibilities:
downing-conferences-cambridge.co.uk/weddings

40 Years of Women at Downing



The College Archivist is planning an exhibition to mark the 40th anniversary of the admission of women at Downing next year. If you would be willing to share your memories, photographs (particularly of teams, clubs and societies) or other related items, please contact Jenny Ulph at archivist@dow.cam.ac.uk

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

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