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Dow@Cam is published annually by the
Downing College Development Office.

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Dow@Cam is intended to give an
informative view of College-related
events and people.

Cover:

Alex Lass (2008 History of Art), President
of Downing College Dramatic Society,
in the Howard Theatre. Photographed
by Serita Rana.

Alex explores the history of dramatic arts
at Downing in *Stage Directions*, p.10.



It has been an eventful year at Downing. Undoubtedly, the most enjoyable event of 2010 was the completion of the Howard Theatre, which combines a unique, Georgian interior with being Cambridge's greenest and most technologically advanced theatre. It was officially opened in March by alumnus Sir Trevor Nunn at an event that showcased the best of Downing's graduate and undergraduate talent in a wonderful performance.

The drama society staged its first play, John Vanbrugh's Restoration comedy *The Relapse* in the new theatre in February 2010 and presented Michael Frayn's farce, *Donkeys' Years* in November. As you will read in current student Alex Lass's article, the theatre has already had a dramatic effect on the artistic life of the College.

Equally importantly, the new theatre has helped make Downing a world-class conference venue. This is a major boost for our commercial business, generating income on which our educational activities depend. Together with the restoration of the Hall in 2009, these developments put us in an excellent business position for the future.

Tempering these positive and happy events is the outcome of the Government's comprehensive spending review and Lord Browne's review of university funding. This is not the time to rush into a gloomy assessment of the impact these will have, but it is clear that the new Vice-Chancellor, Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, will have a challenging task in steering the University through this. This will most certainly mean an even greater call on hardship funds in Downing, which barely met the need last year. Our outreach activities will also be made much more difficult as students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds grapple with, and may be deterred by, the prospect of £40,000 – £60,000 of debt at a time when there is very high graduate unemployment.

The Master's Voice

Our focus, then, is very much on ensuring that current and future students at Downing continue to have the most outstanding education and student experience, while remaining as unaware as it is possible to be of the financially difficult situation the College is in now and will face for some years to come. The success of our Catalysis endowment fund-raising campaign is absolutely critical, since it will ensure Downing's future financial security so that the College continues to be able to change people's lives.

This issue of *Dow@Cam* again reveals the many ways in which our alumni are having an impact on the lives of others. We report the astonishing work of alumnus Steve Mannion, who has established a non-surgical cure for clubfoot, initially in Malawi, but now word-wide. David Nutt shows his great tenacity in trying to bring accurate information about the harms of abused drugs to the general population as well as policy makers, who to date have not shown much evidence of being able to listen. Our Fellow Amy Milton is researching the neural mechanisms of memory in a way that will lead to new treatments for addiction and post-traumatic stress disorder. Adam Ramadan describes his work on Palestinian refugees, graduate student Shahzad Shafqat about terrorism, John Hillier about catastrophe and Penny Rudge about fulfilling her dreams of becoming an a writer.

Finally, this has been a year of great change in the Fellowship. Several Fellows left the college, including Professor Charlie Ellington FRS and Margery Barrand, both of whom retired, Penelope Nevill, Franco Basso and Tariq Sadiq, our former Development Director. But we have been very fortunate and happy to welcome new Fellows Rob Harle (Computer Science), Tim Burton (Pharmacology), Jimena Berni (Research Fellow), Marta Correia (Biological Natural Sciences), Jamie Alcock (Economics) and Alicia Hinerajos (Law).

Downing Update



Downing City Group

The Downing City Group met on 3 September for a special session examining the topic of regulation. On the panel were (from left) **Barney Reynolds (1986 Law)**, Partner and Head of Financial Institutions Advisory and Financial Regulatory Group, Shearman & Sterling; **Nausicaa Delfas (1987 Law)**, Head of Department, Conduct Risk Division, FSA and **Mike Gibbons (1967 Natural Sciences)**, Chair, Regulatory Policy Committee. With a panel of diverse



backgrounds and specialist knowledge, the evening provided a multi-faceted approach to regulation and led to some lively interaction amongst the group.

The Downing City Group is for all alumni who work in financial, banking, insurance and related sectors. If you would like to be added to the City Group list, please contact Sarah Durban, Alumni Relations Coordinator (serd2@cam.ac.uk).



Alumni Day

Richard Smith gave his final lecture as Vice-Master of Downing in the Howard Theatre on Alumni Day, 26 September. His lecture *Sustaining Elderly Populations in the Past, Present and Future* focused on his current research interests relating to rapid metropolitan growth in historic populations, the consequences of ageing populations for welfare provision and family relationships as well as the determinants of increased longevity over long sweeps of time.

A Green Griffin for Downing

Downing alumnus **Quentin Blake (1953 English)** has lent his hand to design a logo for Downing's green initiatives. The Green Griffin underlines the College's commitment to the environment. Downing was named the greenest college in the University of Cambridge's Environment Consulting Survey 2010 and we are the only Cambridge College to have achieved the coveted Carbon Trust Standard. Downing is also part of the 10:10 initiative with the aim of reducing carbon emissions by 10% this year.

This generous participation from Quentin, one of Britain's best-loved illustrators, highlights our ongoing pledge to promote sound environmental management policies and practices in all areas of our activities. Our charter can be seen on the main Downing website at www.dow.cam.ac.uk



Foolish Lessons in IT and Novel Writing

Penny Rudge left Downing dreaming of becoming a writer. Twenty-one years later, she explains how a corporate training course led to the publication of her first book.



It does not seem a promising start: for most of us, being sent on a training course designed to ‘unleash creativity’ would be nothing more than an opportunity for a bit of networking and – with a bit of luck – a good lunch.

But for **Penny Rudge (1989 English)** it was the tipping point. “I suddenly realised that I could use these skills to do what I really wanted to do; that if I put the same effort demanded by my job into my writing, maybe I could actually pull it off.”

Five years later and Penny’s life is transformed. Her first book, *Foolish Lessons in Life and Love*, complete with endorsement from no less a mentor than Andrew Motion, is published by Little, Brown. She is working on her second book. And she is, in her own words, ‘officially a proper writer’.

So how exactly do you turn your life around to do what you really want to do? For Penny, who read English at Downing, it has been all about slow – but purposeful – progress. After Cambridge, having decided that the usual jobs in media and journalism weren’t quite right, Penny landed herself a series of high-powered jobs in IT.

“Obviously, no-one was going to pay me to write a novel,” she says. “So I wrote a list of five things I wanted from a career – I wanted to live in central London, I wanted to earn a reasonable salary straight away, that kind of thing – and IT came out as the only thing that ticked all the boxes.”

She promptly landed a job with John Lewis. The only problem, of course, was

that while her career was going from strength to strength, Penny still wanted to be a writer. So, approaching her quarter-life crisis, she did what everyone convinced they have a book inside them does: she quit her job and gave herself a year to get that book written.

“I spent a year in Brighton writing, and though I finished the book it was never published,” she says. “What I realise now is that it had enough words, but not enough time – it was a first draft not a novel. But at the time I just assumed it wasn’t any good, put it away and set about getting a job.”

After working in London for a few more years, Penny’s new company transferred her to California. Although, on the surface, she was still climbing the

“We’re all taught to broaden our opportunities as much as possible, but I had to close doors to the things I quite wanted in order to focus on the one thing I really wanted”



corporate ladder, she says that it was at this point that she really began to hone her writing skills.

“While I was in the US I joined a theatre writing group – you’d write your play and then the group would critique it,” she says. “It was brilliant for me because it was my first step into feedback – people tend to think that writing streams from your pen and then it’s printed. The couple of years I spent in the US really taught me how to improve and edit my work.”

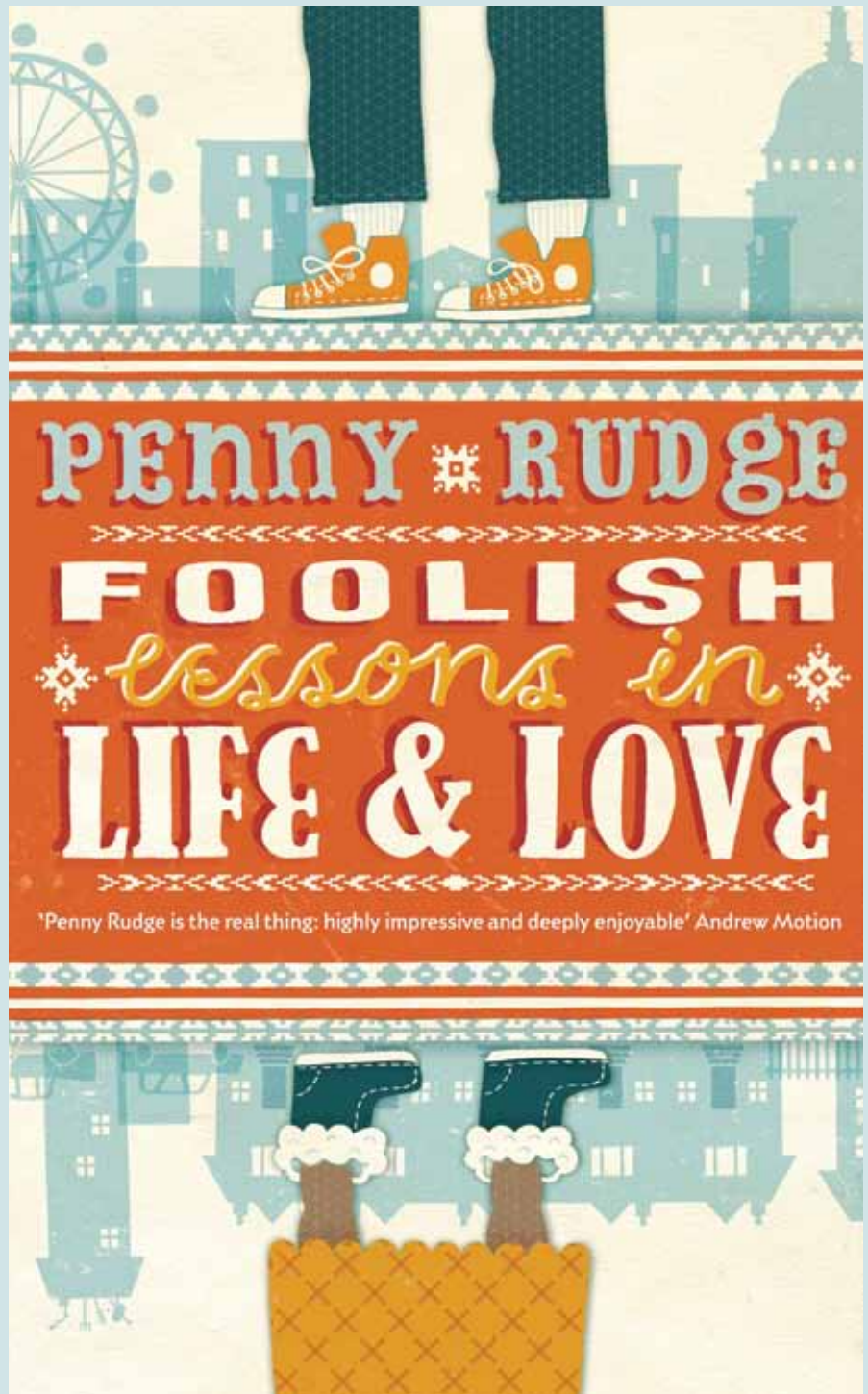
“Writing is now the centre of my life, not on the periphery.”

Back in the UK, Penny embarked on an MBA – with an ever-increasing sense of being in the wrong job. “I think I was getting to the point where it was actually beginning to become distressing. I felt a sense of dislocation: that the person I was being was not the person I was.”

And then came the course on unleashing creativity and Penny’s light bulb moment. “Despite my own doubts and the fact that lots of friends thought I was making a car-crash of my life, I enrolled on a one-year novel writing course,” she says. “It was a real watershed. Slowly, I started to align my whole life with writing. We’re all taught to broaden our opportunities as much as possible and keep all doors open, but actually I had reached a point where I had to close doors to things I quite wanted in order to focus on the one thing I really wanted.”

The first day of writing, was, Penny says, more of a relief rather than a trial. “Being on the course really helped, because everyone had the same feeling of terror, and there was a deadline, which really helped,” she says. “But going back to Cambridge essay-producing mode was also important. Downing had taught me to accept that sometimes things just don’t flow, but you still keep going.”

Penny followed up the one-year course with an MA. Once *Foolish Lessons in Life and Love* was complete, she quickly found an agent, and then a publisher. “My life has changed utterly,” she says.



“I will never go back to the corporate world. Writing is now the centre of my life, not on the periphery.”

So does she regret the years she spent not writing? “I think how long it took was how long it had to take,” she says. “It would be brilliant to be a successful published writer at 21, but then you don’t have a large chunk of normal life, as you have lived it, to draw upon.”

As for her tips to other dreamers, Penny is clear. “You have to start by having

the courage to admit to yourself what you want. I spent a long time denying it to myself, let alone other people,” she says. “Fear of failure is all very well, but you have to admit your goals to have any chance of achieving them.” Which is, on consideration, not such a foolish lesson in life after all.

***Foolish Lessons in Life and Love* by Penny Rudge is published by Little, Brown at £11.99**
www.pennyrudge.com

Best Foot Forward

Many doctors dream of consigning the disease they treat to the history books. *Dow@Cam* discovers how Steve Mannion, orthopaedic surgeon and founder of international disability charity Feet First, is making his dream of ridding the world of clubfoot a reality.



It takes a certain openness of mind for a surgeon to set aside the scalpel for a plaster cast and a metal bar. When orthopaedic surgeon **Steve Mannion (1983 Medicine)** began his medical career the standard treatment for clubfoot – the most common major musculoskeletal abnormality – involved invasive surgery. So when ten years ago he heard about the Ponseti Method, his initial reaction was scepticism.

Developed by a doctor at the University of Iowa, Ignacio Ponseti, the technique involves gentle manual manipulation of a child's clubfoot and application of toe-to-groin plaster casts. Casts are changed and softened foot ligaments manipulated weekly until, after only five weeks, the deformity has been corrected.

According to Steve: "Ten or fifteen years ago the main clubfoot treatment was surgical. But Ponseti obsessively studied the anatomy of the foot and worked out how to correct it in a procedure that just

involves five weeks of recasting. After that, a brace is worn full-time for three months and then only at night for two to four years."

Interspersed with NHS jobs, during the 1990s Steve worked overseas for the International Committee of the Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières in war zones from Ethiopia to Afghanistan. At the end of the 1990s he moved to Malawi and became interested in clubfoot.

"Untreated, clubfoot is a profound disability," Steve explains. "Kids can't walk to school, and when they grow up they can't do manual jobs or be subsistence farmers. African women with clubfoot fare even worse because the stigma attached to it means that many don't marry."

He heard about the Ponseti Method ten years ago via an orthopaedic surgeon in Canada. Steve told *Dow@Cam*: "Surgeons believe in surgery.

I was initially very sceptical of the Ponseti Method because I was good at operating on clubfoot. Surgeons are always reluctant to relinquish a surgical technique, but I tried the Ponseti Method and the rest is history."

For a doctor like Steve working in Africa, the Ponseti Method is a major advance because it needs neither surgical infrastructure nor doctors; with appropriate training, physiotherapists and other healthcare workers can successfully treat clubfoot.

After piloting Ponseti in three clinics in Malawi, Steve rolled it out nationally: "Malawi is the jewel in the crown of the Ponseti Method in Africa. In Malawi, all children with clubfoot are now treated in the first year of life, making clubfoot a thing of the past."

Since founding Feet First in 2004, Steve has set up projects in Laos, Papua New Guinea and Sierra Leone, and later this year he sets off for Zimbabwe. "The Zimbabwe project is brand new in a country that badly needs it. Most of my work outside the UK is now in training because you can make such a huge impact by building capacity."

His results have been so successful that the Ponseti Method is now the gold-standard treatment for clubfoot – not only in Africa and Asia, but in developed countries too.

Today, Steve divides his time between Africa, Asia and the UK, where he lives with his wife and three children, job sharing as a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Blackpool Victoria Hospital. "When I came back to the NHS in 2003

I was nearly 40 and all I owned fitted into one bag. “I had no financial security, no home. That’s what swung it.”

It’s an unusual working pattern but one where everyone wins, Steve says: “People come to Blackpool from all over the world for our clubfoot treatment – so my experience in Africa means UK patients benefit.”

And he is acutely aware of global disparities in healthcare. “Some Malawian hospitals lack even one doctor, relying on clinical staff and non-doctor medics. Sometimes they’re without electricity or running water. In Malawi there are only five orthopaedic surgeons for a population of 12 million, and only 40 in the whole of East Africa where the population is 200 million,” he explains.

“His results have been so successful that the Ponseti Method is now the gold-standard treatment for clubfoot – not only in Africa and Asia, but in developed countries too.”

It’s not a lifestyle that leaves Steve much spare time, although he still enjoys canoeing, running and climbing, plus playing blues harmonica and drums. And he has fond memories of Cambridge. Arriving at Downing in 1983 to read Natural Sciences, Steve decided to switch to Medicine – with help from Barry Everitt.

“Clubfoot disability is now on the way to being eradicated, and it’s great to be part of that. I met some inspirational people at Downing – it’s a rich environment full of amazing, creative people full of ideas and ambition. I’m grateful to Cambridge and Downing because I wouldn’t be doing what I am without them.”

The author’s fee for this article has been donated to Steve’s charity Feet First. For more information visit www.feetfirstworldwide.com



Steve and his team operate on a patient in Malawi



A child in Malawi undergoing treatment for clubfoot using the Ponseti Method



A Hard Nutt to Crack



A year on from his high-profile and very public sacking as the government's chief drugs adviser, Professor David Nutt tells *Dow@Cam* why the furore was good for drugs policy in the UK

For a man who, thanks to his chosen field of brain research and his brush with politics, knows more than most about the murkier side of the human psyche, **Professor David Nutt (1969 Medicine)** remains remarkably upbeat.

David was sacked as chair of the Advisory Committee on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) in November 2009 following publication of a paper comparing the risks associated with horse-riding with taking ecstasy, and a lecture in which he highlighted the fact that alcohol does more harm than many illegal drugs.

The paper that set in train his collision with the former Labour government was based on a patient of his, a woman in her early 30s who had suffered permanent brain damage in a riding accident. David cast her enjoyment of riding as an addiction, which he dubbed "equasy" but, he says, he had no idea it would cause such a storm. "It was a thought piece, not a provocative piece," he told *Dow@Cam*. "Its purpose was to make people think about what are the right comparators if the justification for making a drug illegal is the harm it causes."

Rather than damaging his reputation, David says being beaten up in public by the government did him no harm. "I spent 10 years working for the government. People think I'm pro-drugs, but I take a responsible view of drugs and drug harm. I just tried to do what's best. I still don't really know why I was sacked; it was a huge injustice, which is why I put up such a battle. Now people realise that I have the stomach for a fight," he explains.

And the very public nature of the affair benefited science more widely, David argues: "We should use the media: science is a dying discipline and if we don't communicate we won't get more young people involved."

He believes the events of 2009 also had a positive effect on the debate about drugs and drug policy in the UK. "The furore moved the whole field on enormously," he says. "Since then, there has been lots of debate on the value of science and most of the quality press are firmly on the side of evidence-based policy making."

To improve that evidence base, in January 2010 David established the Independent Scientific Committee on Drugs (ISCD). The new committee has financial backing from hedge-fund manager Toby Jackson and includes several former members of the ACMD, as well as Barry Everitt, Professor of Behavioural Neuroscience at the University of Cambridge and Master of Downing College. According to David: "The intellectual authority has moved from the ACMD to the ISCD. The ACMD is seen now as bereft of expertise and also under the thumb of government. And there has been no change in regulation that would stop another Chair being sacked in the same way that I was."

The ISCD has a busy work programme, including gathering evidence on Mephedrone and cognitive enhancing drugs, both of which have attracted recent media attention. Anecdotal evidence suggests cognitive enhancers such as Modafinil are being used by university students to help them with course work or exams. "They are an interesting group of drugs and there is pressure to make them illegal, backed by some poor science, so we'll be looking at the evidence for harm," David says.

"But the fact that they might give some students an advantage in exams is not a reason to ban them – they could be regulated in the same way that performance-enhancing drugs are regulated in sport. And they might have benefits that are good for society – Modafinil might help tired doctors

perform better on the wards," he points out.

As well as believing that the ISCD will help inform debate on drugs, he is hopeful that the new Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition may herald a more mature attitude to drugs policy in the UK. "The election was a perfect solution. Labour had taken an unpleasant, hostile approach to drugs: over the past five years there has been a doubling in the rate of cannabis convictions," David says. "The Lib Dems' influence should be positive – they were supportive of me following my sacking and they have a more mature attitude to drugs. And many young Tories have admitted to having had experiences with drugs in the past."

In an ideal world, David would like the UK to consider adopting measures that have worked in some other European countries. "We need to reduce access to heroin and crack, the most addictive drugs, by regulating access to cannabis as happens in the Netherlands. I'm interested in the idea of allowing access to other drugs, especially those less harmful than alcohol. It's hard to justify not allowing some access to some drugs that are less damaging than alcohol."

"And we should do what Portugal has done and decriminalise drugs for personal use. If drug users are addicts, it is inappropriate to criminalise someone with an illness. If they are not, they are not likely to be doing themselves much harm so why give them a criminal record?" David asks.

Only time will tell how the UK answers that one.

David Nutt is the Edmund J Safra Professor of Neuropsychopharmacology and Director of the Neuropsychopharmacology Unit at Imperial College London.



Unreliable Memories



Downing Fellow Dr Amy Milton talks about her research on memory and we get a sneak preview of her ambitious plan to use a Memory Film Festival to engage the public with neuroscience

Dr Amy Milton says her earliest memory is falling off her father's knee onto a cup and cutting her leg. While she has proof the event took place (in the shape of a scar) she admits her memory of it may not be quite as clear cut. "I was only three or four years old at the time, so it may just be that I heard the story many times. The more you study memory, the less you trust your own," she says.

Our memories determine who we are to such a profound extent that it is perhaps surprising that for neuroscientists like Amy so much still remains to be discovered about how our memories work.

We know that memories can be broadly divided into two types – explicit and implicit. "Explicit memory is something like remembering a specific event or definition of a word, whereas implicit memory is something like riding a bike. You can't teach someone to ride a bike by explaining how to do it, they have to do it themselves and learn in this unconscious way," Amy explains.

We know too that these memories are stored in different regions of the brain: memories of events depend on the hippocampus while Pavlovian conditioning (a type of implicit memory) depends on the amygdala.

And the unknowns? According to Amy: "We don't know what a memory actually looks like in the brain and we don't yet have the link between our molecular understanding of memory and the psychological level. That's what we are trying to combine in this laboratory."

"The brain is so complicated. That's why it is difficult to study, but that's also what makes it so exciting for me. It's a really big problem and there is so much left to discover."

One current avenue of research – and the focus of Amy's work – is understanding how memories can be modified after they have first been stored, and using that knowledge to open up new treatments for drug users and people suffering other forms of addiction.

Addictive drugs seem to produce very strong memories quite quickly, and scientists have found that environmental cues, such as where and with whom people take drugs, as well as the syringes or razor blades they use, are potent precipitators of relapse because they induce such strong cravings.

"If you scan cocaine addicts' brains while showing them videos of people taking drugs you find massive activation in the amygdala, the part of the brain associated with emotional memory. So there is potential here for using therapeutic drugs to disrupt these memories," Amy explains.

One such therapeutic candidate is the beta-blocker Propanolol, used for treating stage fright as well as high blood pressure, which Amy and her colleagues hope to trial in alcoholics for the first time.

Film makers as well as scientists have long been fascinated by memory in general, and memory loss in particular. Amnesia has been a staple plot device since the silent movie era and, says Amy, several recent films (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Memento* and *Finding Nemo* among them) treat the neuroscience well.

All three films, together with *Total Recall* and *The Hangover*, will feature in Amy's Memory Film Festival in spring 2011. Each film will be introduced by a Cambridge neuroscientist and children will get an hour of hands-on fun science

experiments before the screening of the U-certificate animation *Finding Nemo*.

Amy hopes audiences will react to the films on several levels. While younger viewers should gain a greater interest in science and find in film ways of talking to their parents about scientific issues, having the films introduced by researchers should give teenagers a better insight into what science has to offer as a career.

"I hope it will demystify neuroscience a bit," she says. "I found during my PhD that if you wanted a conversation killer, you just needed to tell people that you were a neuropsychopharmacologist. It sounds horrendous! But much of it is quite straightforward if you can strip away the jargon."

A strong contender for best cinematic treatment of memory, *Eternal Sunshine* stars Kate Winslet and Jim Carrey as Joel and Clementine, two former lovers dealing with the fallout from their breakup. When Clementine hires Lacuna Inc. to wipe Joel from her memory, Joel seeks revenge by embarking on the same procedure, only to decide half way through that he wants to keep his memories.

Interested in the film because it tackles her own research on disrupting memories, Amy also thinks the film is a great way to get the public thinking about the science. "Although there are clear differences between the film and our research, the film is a good way of showing people that it might be possible in the future to disrupt memories and a novel way of opening up debate about whether or not that's a good thing to do," says Amy.

The Memory Film Festival will run from 15 March to 4 April 2011 as part of the Cambridge Science Festival at the Arts Picturehouse and Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

Stage Directions



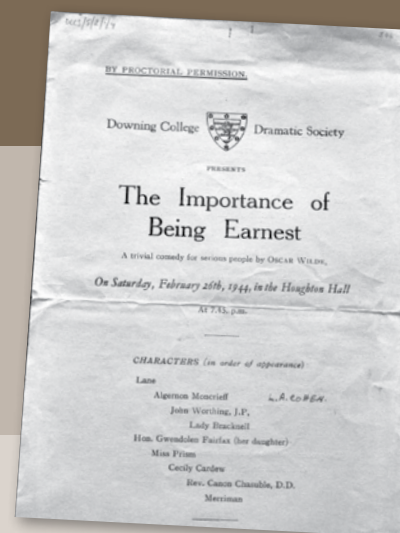
As the College celebrates the opening of the Howard Theatre, Alex Lass (2008 History of Art), President of Downing Dramatic Society, examines how drama has touched the lives of Downing members past and present.

All the world's a stage, but is Downing College part of that world? On my arrival in October 2008 as a fresh-faced undergraduate I eagerly joined the Downing Dramatic Society. After performing in the Freshers' shows at both Downing and the Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club Theatre later that term, I discovered the curious workings of Cambridge student theatre. For the majority of performers, technicians, critics and general student theatregoers, the ADC Theatre is to College theatre as London's West End is to regional theatre. The ADC Theatre is Britain's oldest university playhouse: plays have been presented on the site of the Theatre since 1855, the year the ADC was founded. So it is no surprise that it attracts students from across the University. Few other student theatre venues can match the ADC Theatre as a near-professional performing space. However, with the opening of the fabulous Howard Theatre here at Downing back in March this year, that is all changing.

The creation of the Howard Theatre, made possible though an extremely

generous donation from the Howard Foundation, solved the major problem for drama at Downing: lack of a designated and fully-equipped performance space. Two alumni of the College, Charles McFarland (1976 English) and Sir Trevor Nunn (1959 English) who have gone on to very successful careers in theatre, cite this issue as one of the reasons for limited theatrical productions at College. McFarland has been Artistic Producer and Program Manager, Theatres, for the City of Ottawa in Canada since April 2006. Reminiscing about his student theatrical experiences, he muses:

"I'm not sure whether the Downing Drama Society was in abeyance or simply not yet in existence in 1976–79; in any case, my university theatre experiences were, variously, the ADC (I was President 1978–9), the Marlowe Society, Footlights (I directed a show for them at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 1979), Mummers (I think that was for whom I directed my first show, in my second term, which went to the National Student Drama Festival) and of course other colleges' drama societies... Great teaching at Downing though; Mark Le



A programme from Downing Dramatic Society's 1944 production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Fanu and Carl Baron; supervision with leading lights like Queenie Leavis!"

Renowned Theatre Director Sir Trevor was appointed Artistic Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company only a few years after graduation. He held this position until 1986, and his student theatre experiences are similar to McFarland's. In conversation with him over dinner in Hall after the Official Opening of the Howard Theatre, he recounted how in his final year he shunned the library in favour of directing both the Marlowe Society Main Show at the Arts Theatre and the Footlights National Tour Show, which featured Miriam Margolyes. So was there no student drama society at Downing to compete with the Marlowe (founded in 1907) or the Footlights (founded in 1883), both of which attracted talent from across the University?

With the kind assistance of the College Archivist, Dr Kate Thompson, I was able to probe into the history of student theatre at College. The Downing Dramatic Society was founded in the Lent term of 1940. Three programmes from the 1940s and '50s record some 'in house' theatrical productions in the years after the foundation of the society. Wilde's "trivial comedy for serious people" *The Importance of Being Earnest*, was presented in 1944, *Macbeth* was presented in 1953, and Sheridan's *St Patrick's Day; or, The Scheming Lieutenant* was presented in 1954. Issues with performance



Sir Trevor Nunn (English 1959) speaking at the Official Opening of the Howard Theatre, March 2010

spaces are evident here: the Wilde show was performed “in the Houghton Hall” (presumably this refers to the country house in Norfolk); the May Week Sheridan show was performed *al fresco* in the Fellows’ Garden. The venue for the production of *Macbeth* remains a mystery. As a Lent Term show, it is unlikely that it was performed outside, and the programme details a complete production team including a seven-strong stage management core, and two lighting designers. The production featured curtains by Cape’s of Chiswick: it must have taken place in a theatre. Perhaps the DDS produced the show at the ADC Theatre itself? No doubt Roy F Knight, who directed this show and *The Scheming Lieutenant*, and Neil Morris, who played lead roles in both, could shed light on this conundrum.

These are the only DDS productions recorded in the College Archives. It seems there was a hiatus in DDS shows between the mid-1950s and the late 1990s. However, the archives reveal that another student group was enthusiastic about staging shows at College: the Downing College Music Society. The DCMS’ heyday was during the 1980s when they staged three shows: *Orfeo and Eurydice* in 1983, directed by Gregory Ripley-Duggan; *Salad Days* in June 1984, produced by Victoria Cripps and Beverley Myers; *My Fair Lady* in June 1985, directed by Emma Awdry. A quick scan of the cast list for *Salad Days* reveals the involvement of Frank Salmon as Nigel, Timothy’s father. Dr Salmon read English Literature at Downing (1981–1984) and is now the Head of the History of Art Department here at Cambridge and a Fellow of St John’s College. So perhaps involvement in student theatre is not a disaster for academia after all! These summer DCMS shows were doubtless in the Fellows’ Garden, and they prove that theatre at college did not become extinct after the powerhouse duo of Knight and Morris. Indeed, the archive also features a fantastic old playbill for a DCMS production of Milton and Arne’s *The Masque of Comus*, dating from June 1955. Sure enough, Neil Morris himself played Comus.

In more recent years, facilitated by the arrival of the Howard Building in the 1980s, the DDS has awoken from its slumber, offering a regular diet of a Freshers’ show each Michaelmas Term, a May Week show in June in the Fellows’



Alex Lass



Charles McFarland (English 1976) Artistic Producer and Program Manager, Theatres, City of Ottawa



A scene from The Ottawa Shakespeare Company’s 2009 production of *Henry V*, directed by Charles McFarland



Scenes from the Howard Theatre’s inaugural play. A scene from *The Relapse*, February 2010

Garden, and often another show in Lent, either ‘in house’ or at other venues in Cambridge including the ADC Theatre and the Corpus Christi Playroom which is run by Corpus’ drama society, The Fletcher Players. But with the completion of the Howard Theatre the DDS has been truly revitalised and we now

have the potential to stage innovative, professional and stimulating theatre.

The Howard Theatre is a unique combination of the latest technologies and traditional classic architecture. It features: ground-source heating and cooling throughout the building, partly located under the neighbouring sunken garden; solar panels fitted to the Welsh slate roof to provide an additional environmental heating source for the building’s domestic hot water; an exterior structure made from Ketton stone, giving both grace and thermal efficiency to the building; rainwater harvesting for bathroom use and maintaining the allied landscaping. Inside the auditorium, the decorative *trompe l’oeil* ceiling evokes the spirit of Georgian theatre and has been designed by Francis Terry (1988 Architecture) of Quinlan and Francis Terry LLP. The front-of-house curtain has also been designed by Francis Terry, showing a Grecian street scene that portrays the College among images of classical Greek architecture. With tiered flooring and 120 auditorium seats crafted from the finest Italian leathers, and upright seating along the side galleries on the first and second floor, the theatre can accommodate a total audience of 160: a luxurious and intimate performance space.

As Sir Trevor noted in his remarks at the theatre’s Official Opening, the building is truly the jewel in the crown of Downing’s recent development initiatives. As a budding director while at College, the lack of such a fine facility prompted him to look elsewhere for theatrical opportunities. Green with envy at us current undergraduates, Sir Trevor rightly quipped how lucky we all are now to have this space right on our doorstep. No other college can boast such a tasteful and smart venue that should welcome full houses for many years to come. It was such a pleasure to direct Vanbrugh’s *The Relapse* as the theatre’s first show back in February, that I couldn’t wait to start rehearsals for the next DDS production, which was Michael Frayn’s classic farce *Donkeys’ Years*. The show played during Michaelmas Term from 16 to 20 November. I do hope that many of you were able to return to College and see DDS in action.

All the world’s a stage. It is with much joy that Downing is finally part of that world.

The Official Opening of the Howard Theatre



Downing alumnus and internationally acclaimed Theatre Director Sir Trevor Nunn (1959 English) was guest of honour at the official opening of Cambridge's newest theatre on 3 March. Funded by an extraordinary £9 million benefaction from Dr Alan Howard (1948 Natural Sciences, Wilkins Fellow), the theatre is a 160-seat performance space and the heart of the College's arts community. Dr Howard and his son, Dr Jonathan Howard (1974 Law, Wilkins Fellow), were in attendance with other members of the Howard family and representatives from the Howard Foundation.



Dr Alan Howard, The Master and Sir Trevor Nunn



Sir Alan Howard addresses the audience at the official opening event



The Howard family with The Master and Sir Trevor Nunn

The event itself was a celebration of the thriving student talent in College. With drama, music, song and dance all on the programme, the performance and direction were managed entirely by Downing students.



The Ages of Woman by Lucy Boyes (2007 English)

With woman, his most fickle extra rib;
She enters in the world the same as he,
And makes her final exit in his way.
First pink and helpless, learning as she grows,
To tell the history of her four short years
As children do. Then self-awareness wakes
Within her, and her prattle ceases fast
As new reflections fall upon her head;
Then, leggy and Lolita, braided hair,
She wonders quite how it would feel to taste
Another's mouth, and when that day will come;
And now she blossoms, and young, awkward men
Pay visits to her heart, and leave their mark
In those dark, secret chambers, and the loss
As each one leaves is sorrowfully felt,
Thus turning to her books, she finds and reads
The women-poets, male philosophy,
And wonders that their ends are not the same,
Until her schooling ceases. She is free
To marry, free as any man to work,
And calls herself a feminist, because
She feels *something* is wrong, but knows not what.
Her prince arriving, be he late or soon,
She thanks her stars, and puts her hand in his,
To honour and to cherish, to obey
Some of the time. Then brings she forth her sons,
Fine boys, and sometimes sends them off to war,
Painting and dressing daughters in her stead:
The loins' fair fruit is yet hard-laboured won.
Now all her seeds are sown, her body left
A husk that once gave life to other things
And now gives none, and once again she takes
Her books in hand, and studies how the world
Has come to be this way, her children gone,
Her husband sleeping, gardening, at the golf,
And all her friends complaining that their age
Has wrought great change within them, and the night
Their beauty steals ere fades the setting sun:
Their children have brought children forth as well,
And those in turn are shedding childhood's ways.
Her countenance is lined, her thinning hair
A pale reflection of its former gloss,
Her eyesight fading, fingers cramped with pain,
Her body now exhausted, that once was
The mother not of all nations but one;
Tired and grateful meets she then her grave,
The world's eyes turned to all that she has made.

Read at the opening ceremony of the Howard Theatre

The Geography of Impermanence



Dr Adam Ramadan examines how political and cultural geography is beginning to open up questions of identity and sovereignty in the Palestinian refugee camps of Lebanon



Dr Adam Ramadan specialises in the geography of impermanence – or more accurately, apparent impermanence. As a man who has spent most of his professional career examining the political and cultural constitution of the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, he is intimately acquainted with the ways in which the seemingly temporary can be permanent, and the clearly permanent can remain liminal.

“Refugee camps are terribly interesting places. We all have ideas of fields of tents and displaced people but in Lebanon the camps have been there for sixty years,” Adam explains. “They are places that draw meaning from another place and time, pre-1948. And they are not controlled by the Lebanese authorities – so they are also enclaves of another authority within what should otherwise be a sovereign state.”

Adam’s work focuses on the everyday lives of Palestinian refugees living in camps in Lebanon, examining how identity is produced in exile, and how refugee camps are constructed as national, political and cultural spaces. But, perhaps surprisingly, this complex, engaging work – which takes in key issues in the Middle East – began as a wildly ambitious undergraduate dissertation project.

“My Dad’s Egyptian and I was interested in doing something in the region, so I drew up a list of potential Middle East topics,” he says. “I then found a charity called Unipal, which takes young people to teach English on a month’s summer

“Usually, the Lebanese are hosts to the Palestinians, but now Palestinians were able to offer food and safety to the Lebanese. Dynamics and relationships were renegotiated.”



Nahr el-Bared, a refugee camp that was destroyed in a 2007 war

school, which meant I could stay on a second month to do interviews. I think if I had gone out there on my own it would have been pretty intimidating – the institutional setting made it logistically possible.”

But how do you begin to untangle the complex social, cultural and political world of the camps? On his first trip, Adam looked at Palestinian identity and how identity can be discursive, asking questions around why people who live in Lebanon identify themselves as Palestinian and what that identity meant to them.

“In some ways it was great to ask the big questions, even though you know you won’t necessarily be able to answer them. It was an enormous subject,” he says. “But when I came back to Cambridge it was very frustrating to try and fit it all into my dissertation, so I started to think about further study.”

Now a Fellow in Geography and Director of Studies at Downing, Adam’s work has necessarily evolved in response to changing circumstances. Working in Rashidieh camp, in the far south of Lebanon, and Nahr el-Bared camp, in the far north, his original PhD proposal aimed to examine the nature of the refugee crisis and how it manifested in the lives of ordinary people. But the 33-day Israeli-Hezbollah war of 2006, followed in 2007 by the conflict between Fatah al-Islam, an

Islamist militant organisation, and the Lebanese Armed Forces, intervened.

“My planned approach became secondary to studying war – and my research became dominated by the question of how conflict is negotiated on a day-to-day basis,” Adam explains. “The fieldwork was pushed back to 2007, and questions about identity became part of the background, with the conflict and how people had coped pushed into the foreground.”

And it is as a geographer that Adam has begun to explain the impact of place on conflict, finding that the consequences of war on the inhabitants of the camps were defined by the unique, and arguably unsustainable, political status of the camps themselves.

“During the 2006 conflict, it was actually good that the camps were not controlled by the Lebanese authorities. Israel wasn’t bombing the camps, because Hezbollah was not present in the camps, and that meant they were able to offer sanctuary to Lebanese civilians displaced by the war,” Adam says. “There was a reversal of conventional relationships. Usually, the Lebanese are hosts to the Palestinians, but now Palestinians were able to offer food and safety to the Lebanese. Dynamics and relationships were renegotiated in positive and lasting ways.”

In contrast, in 2007, when Islamist militants created bases in Nahr el-Bared camp, being beyond the sovereign control of Lebanon became a huge problem. “Rather than a safe haven, the camp became a kind of security vacuum, which the Lebanese couldn’t do anything about and which the Palestinians were not strong enough to resist. And the resulting conflict destroyed the camp,” he says. “It is essentially an issue of political geography.”

Adam says that his conclusion is that the current situation is not fair or sustainable: Palestinians have been living in the camps for sixty years, but they don’t have rights within Lebanon, they don’t have the right to return and they don’t have legal routes to emigrate elsewhere, all consequences of a lack of resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Equally, he points out that the ‘refugee question’ is also one of the key reasons why the conflict has not been resolved. So does he have the answer?

“As a geographer I am interested in what constitutes the camps as spaces, the cultural identities and political practices that mark the camps as part of Palestine not Lebanon” he says. “So I don’t think my research proposes, or should propose, a solution to these questions, so much as help to frame the questions.”



Why Extremism can be a Force for Good

Graduate student Shahzad Shafqat says that understanding extremism as a psychological tendency can transform the fight against terrorism



Whether you're trying to work out why an individual becomes a terrorist, or how 'counter-extremism' should be tackled, graduate student **Shahzad Shafqat (2007)** says that the words you use matter.

"In the aftermath of 9/11 and the 7/7 bombings in the UK, the general press began to try to understand the pathology of a terrorist," he says. "That was quite understandable, but then academics also started to look for people who might display the characteristics of 'the terrorist' – were they from poor

backgrounds? Rich backgrounds? Was it about exclusion?

I'm from Pakistan, and terrorism is a big problem there. And the more I heard the word being used on the news, the more I thought about it – and the more I realised that this word-bashing was pointless: labelling someone as a 'terrorist' alone couldn't help us to understand it."

As a psychologist, Shahzad realised that in order to open up the debate, he needed to understand the behaviour – and the behaviour was not terrorist, but extremist.

"Terrorism is primarily a political word, but it has no academic value for investigation – one man's freedom fighter is another person's terrorist, and that's not helpful," he says.

"But one man's extremist is everyone's extremist. And that matters because when you take off the label of 'terrorist', you can swap sides, and as far as government is concerned you are now 'nice'. But really, you are still extreme, and as far as the psychologist is concerned, you still have extremist tendencies."

In order to test these ideas, Shahzad designed an MPhil project that could compare the concepts of terrorism and extremism. Taking a random online sample from 42 different countries, Shahzad asked participants to describe how they felt after watching a video of a man claiming to have joined an unnamed religious group who was about to embark on an unspecified task.

Before watching the video, participants were primed with one of four stories describing the religious group – ranging from a peaceful monastery to a terrorist organisation. Participants were also asked to rate the perceived traits of the person.

“I concluded that a sense of threat was the defining variable that distinguished extremism from terrorism,” he says. “So, for example, the *Guinness Book of Records* is a compendium of extreme acts, but because there is no threat, you don’t think of them as terrorist acts. The moment it becomes threatening, extremism becomes terrorism.”

Furthermore, it was clear that extremism could easily be a positive trait – high achievement usually requires some kind of extremism, whether in terms of talent, commitment or energy. And that meant building an anti-terror policy on ‘fighting extremism’ was bound to have severe limitations.

“Terrorism is a political label placed within an ideological context; extremism is a behavioural tendency in a social

context. All terrorism is illegal whereas not all extremist acts are even undesirable,” he says. “So when the terms are being used synonymously, for example, saying you will have ‘zero tolerance for extremism’ it makes it very difficult to be effective. You allocate the money to fight extremism, but no-one has defined who or what you are talking about.”

Having completed this initial phase of research, however, Shahzad knew he had to go further, and decided to convert his MPhil into a PhD, this time beginning by focusing specifically on the meanings associated with the word ‘extremism’ in the UN’s six official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian).

“I was interested in how this word works in other languages, to tap into their social and cultural understanding,” he says. “There was always an equivalent word for extremism and it was always negative with political and religious connotations.”

This time, Shahzad conducted six focus groups, one for each of the six languages, with participants representing 36 countries in total.

“The extraordinary thing was that all the groups started out by saying that extremism was a negative word – but at the end, when I asked whether participants considered themselves to be extremists, 44% of them said ‘yes,’” he says. “And when I then

asked whether, given the appropriate motivation, they could be convinced to become an extremist, 61% said ‘yes!’”

What had happened in those 60 minutes? “We had discussed so many productive examples of extremism, for example, people like Nelson Mandela, wherein people react to political crimes and warfare in a way that meant that many of the discussants could see a situation in which they could act in an extreme way as well,” he explains. “But the most important finding was that these people were not pathologically disabled – that is remarkable and the essence of what we need to understand about extremism if we are to tackle it.”

Shahzad is now investigating through other studies in more detail how people define extreme acts, trying to take apart the context that informs extremist behaviour. But in the meantime, he believes that simply clarifying and refining our understanding of how terms such as extremism are used in everyday discourse could have a powerful impact on the debate.

“Decades ago, psychologists were trying to understand terms like ‘stress’ or ‘anger’. They realised that these traits were part of the human being placed in the social world – you can’t get rid of them, you have to manage them instead,” he says. “And the same is true of extremism – you can’t get rid of it, you have to learn to manage it.”

Bio in Brief

Shahzad Shafqat is a PhD student in Social Psychology at the Department of Social and Developmental Psychology, University of Cambridge.

He joined Downing College in 2007, when he began with an MPhil in Social and Developmental Psychology. Previously, he obtained his BSc and MSc in Psychology from Government College University, Lahore in Pakistan. He then served as a Flight Lieutenant with the Pakistan Air Force for five years. Over the past decade, he has specialised in several domains of psychology including: aviation, clinical, criminal, human resource, social, and developmental.

His current research on the ‘Psychology of Extremism’ is aimed at establishing a better management protocol for extremism. The findings have already been widely featured at numerous platforms across disciplines, including the UN Agencies, military academies, social policy conferences, and universities across the world. His research is funded by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, and Downing College.



From Disasters to Drumlins

Downing alumnus Dr John Hillier left Cambridge two years ago to work as a catastrophe modeller for leading insurance firm Zurich. As he takes up a new post at Loughborough University he tells *Dow@Cam* what tempted him back to academic life.

How would you describe a catastrophe model?

Put simply, catastrophe models are computer programs that answer the question ‘what is the worst that can happen, and how much will it cost?’ Using them helps insurance companies estimate their potential losses due to an event like Hurricane Katrina or the recent floods in Pakistan. The insurer puts in the values of what they’ve insured, like your house, hit ‘go’, and out pop the possible losses.

The models contain databases listing events – and these are intended to cover the whole spectrum of nasty things that could happen. One example is the next major earthquake to hit Istanbul, a city of 10 million people. Istanbul sits on the North Anatolian fault and since 1939 there have been a

series of quakes, each one getting nearer to the city. The quake will probably be about magnitude 7 but it could be bigger or smaller, closer or further away. Events in the model represent each variation, each one with a label guessing how likely they are. These are rare, complex events, so modelling is difficult, but it’s the best estimate we have.

What skills and experience did you bring to the insurance industry?

Zurich wanted someone who could intelligently interpret and criticise catastrophe models – easy things for a cynic with a PhD. But what proved particularly useful was my scientific expertise, so I quickly became the team’s science expert, and because I’m a geologist I knew more about earthquakes than any other member of staff.

How did working for Zurich Insurance compare with postdoctoral research at Cambridge?

Industry research is rarely publishable. Deadlines are short – usually days or weeks, and understandably the demand is for a fixed product. You do what you can in the time available, so sometimes ‘just about enough’ has to do.

In academia the pressure is to do it absolutely right, which I find more rewarding. I sorely missed that kind of research – going into a problem in depth – and I missed teaching.

And in academia you have more facilities, greater access to data and – critically for me – more freedom about the computer packages you can use, letting you write the code you want to.

So what tempted you back to an academic career?

I never really wanted to leave academia but family reasons meant I had to. My job at Zurich was great; everyone was fantastic, and I got to see the importance of applying science. Then, the company sent me to a European Geosciences Union conference – an academic meeting – and I realised what I had been missing!

Unless you're in a research-intensive job, you have a window of about two years to get back into academia. If you miss that, you might have to wait five to ten years to return until your industry contacts really start to pay off.

It's fairly unusual to return to academia from catastrophe modelling, so I never thought I'd have the chance to go back. But people persuaded me that my industry links might appeal to a university – and they were right.

How will your experience in the insurance industry benefit your new research?

My interest in extreme events – earthquakes, floods, storms and cyclones – came from working in the insurance industry. It's interesting academically because extreme events are difficult to study, but push theories to their limits. And it's an eminently fundable area of research.

I now have a better idea of how to approach industry with ideas – the time pressures they're under, and how they prefer to communicate – and it's given me an insight into how to manage a team: my bosses at Zurich were very good managers.

What research are you planning at Loughborough?

I'm planning research focused on my skills in statistics and geomorphology. One of the questions that fascinates me is whether or not summer floods and winter storms are linked, so I want to set up a new research group at Loughborough to look at this. It isn't in any of the models, but even a negative result would be an important confirmation for the insurance industry because if the two are unconnected

the likelihood of having to pay out for both events in one financial year is much less.

And I want to continue working on the fascinating but thorny problem of how drumlins – those elongated, whale-shaped hills you learn about at school – are formed under flowing ice sheets. Understanding how they formed during the last ice age will tell us more about how ice is likely to behave as the Earth warms.

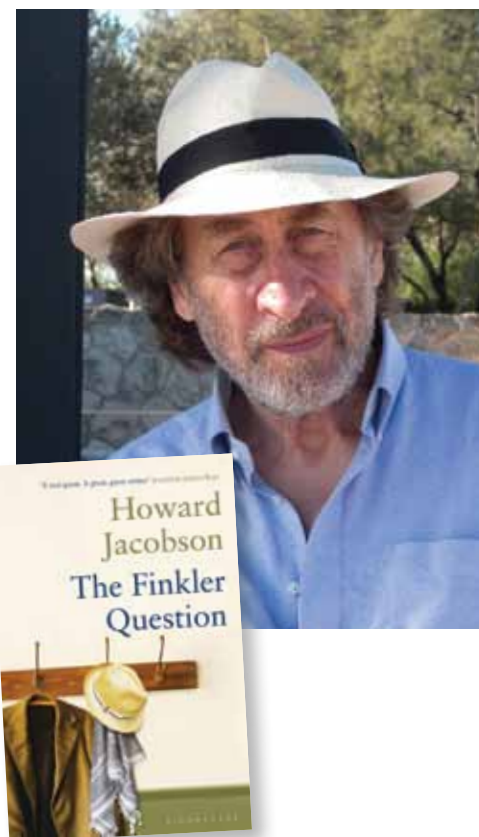
Bio in Brief

John was born in 1977. He received BA (MA Cantab) and MSci degrees in Natural Sciences specialising in Geology whilst at Downing, and a DPhil degree in Marine Geophysics from the University of Oxford.

After studying he was awarded a Research Fellowship at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, and then worked for Zurich Insurance as a catastrophe modeller. He is currently a Lecturer at Loughborough University, with research interests in geohazards and using quantitative geomorphology to understand Earth surface and solid Earth processes. Recent interests include drumlin formation, volcano formation, evolution of oceanic tectonic plates and storm clustering.



Howard Jacobson wins Man Booker Prize

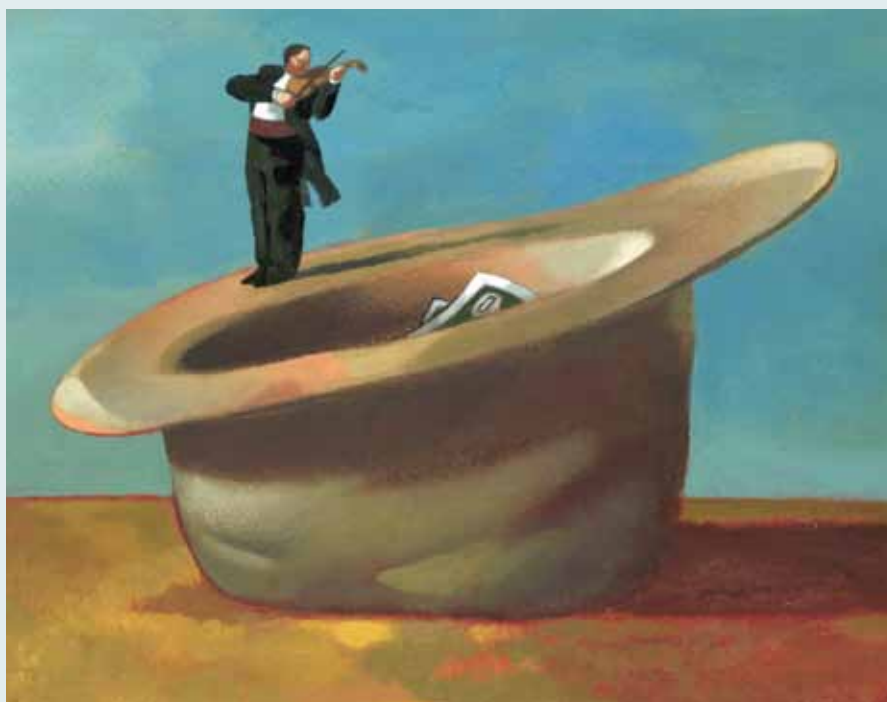


Howard Jacobson (1961 English) was named the winner of the 2010 Man Booker Prize for Fiction for *The Finkler Question*. An award-winning novelist and critic, Howard read English at Downing under FR Leavis. He has been longlisted twice for the Man Booker Prize for *Kalooki Nights* in 2006 and *Who's Sorry Now?* in 2002. Other novels include *The Mighty Walzer* and *The Act of Love*. Howard writes a weekly column for *The Independent* and has written and presented several documentaries for television.

Howard Jacobson will be the guest speaker at the College's forthcoming FR Leavis dinner on 17 March 2010. For details on the event, please visit www.downingcambridge.com

Development Office

Give Shares, Save Tax



give you a small token of thanks, say a pen worth £10 (I'm not saying we will, times are tough you know...), you could claim income tax relief on £1,000 (the brokers fee is added and the value of the benefit is deducted). This would work out as follows, depending on the rate at which you pay tax:

If the value of the shares has increased substantially since you bought them, if you were given the shares as a gift, or if you've been holding on to demutualisation shares, then giving to Downing in this way could be even more advantageous. If you were to sell them you might have to pay Capital Gains Tax which could be as high as 28% depending on your circumstances.

Giving shares isn't difficult. We can provide a Stock Transfer Form, or we can arrange an electronic transfer. You can also choose to sell the shares and Gift Aid the proceeds to Downing, or sell them to the College at less than market value. You can find several examples on the HMRC website. We would also urge you to consult a suitably qualified financial adviser or accountant, because what you can gain will depend very much on your personal circumstances.

One alumnus who recently made a substantial gift of shares said: "I can confirm that it does work for the benefactor from a tax point of view, since I was not liable for the Capital Gains Tax that would have become payable on a normal disposal of said shares, and I was able to offset the value of the shares on the date of transfer against either income or other capital gains."

If you're interested in finding out more, please contact the Development Office or your own broker. After all, who doesn't want to pay less tax?

Times are tough. According to research carried out by the Charities Aid Foundation and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations "The total amount of charitable giving has declined during the recession, down by 11% from 2007/08. A combination of fewer people giving and smaller average donations has led to the decline." In particular, donations from professionals and higher income earners has declined.

However, even in these hard times it is possible for UK taxpayers to make charitable donations at minimal cost. For example, if you own shares, land, property or other assets, you might be surprised at how much tax you can save by giving them to a charity like Downing College (Registered Charity 1137455).

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) website (www.hmrc.gov.uk) explains in more detail, but in a nutshell you can get income tax relief if you give, or sell at less than market value, any qualifying investments to a UK charity like Downing College. You can deduct the value of the qualifying investments and any transaction costs, at the date of disposal, when calculating your total income for income tax purposes. This is in addition to Capital Gains Tax relief for gifts of assets to charity. Companies can get Corporation Tax relief for the same types of investments, plus relief from Corporation Tax on capital gains on such gifts.

For example if, as an individual, you give shares worth £960 to Downing, and it costs you £50 for the brokers fee and we

Tax Rates	20%	40%	50%
Downing receives shares worth	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
You get income tax relief of	£200	£400	£500
Total cost of the donation to you	£800	£600	£500



1749 SOCIETY

By exclusive invitation, the 1749 Society gathered for a reception in the Master's Garden on Saturday, 24 July. Alumni who notify us of their intentions to make a gift to Downing in their Will are welcomed to the 1749 Society. This year's event took place during the July heat wave, and sunshine was in plentiful supply. Guests enjoyed a champagne reception with a string quartet accompaniment. Both the Master and John Hopkins, Honorary President of the 1749 Society, gave speeches of thanks to members for taking action today to invest in Downing tomorrow. The afternoon concluded with a private tour of the Howard Theatre led by Senior Tutor, Prof Graham Virgo.

If you are interested in learning more about remembering Downing in your Will, please contact the Development Office directly (development@dow.cam.ac.uk or 01223 334850).



A NEW LAW SCHOLARSHIP & BOOK PRIZE



Law scholars will receive this handsome bookplate to accompany their book prize.

The Kathryn Wilsey and Keith W Lerch Book Prize and Scholarship in Law was recently established for Downing Scholars achieving a First in Law. An endowment gift of \$25,000 has been used to set up the fund, with the proceeds to be given annually to eligible Downing students. A book prize will also be awarded to each scholar, which will include a specially designed bookplate. After graduating from Harvard and Yale Law School, Mr Lerch came up to Downing in 1970 and wrote a thesis in Comparative Law. Keith and his wife, Kathryn, met in England and have resided in Indianapolis, Indiana for many years. This gift continues a longstanding tradition of alumni support for current Downing students. The first Kathryn Wilsey and Keith W Lerch Scholars will be elected in June 2011.



DONORS' GARDEN PARTY

The College welcomed guests to its annual Donors' Garden Party on Saturday, 12 June in Howard Court. The garden party is very popular with families and we include activities and games to keep younger guests occupied and entertained.

Organised by the Development Office, invitations are sent as a 'thank you' to donors who have made a gift worth £50 or more to Downing in the previous 12 months. We sent out invitations to 1,158 alumni who generously made such gifts this year.



Downing and the Two World Wars

A new publication by the Downing Association chronicles defining moments in history from a College perspective



Did you know that

- a Downing man won a posthumous Victoria Cross at the Battle of the Somme in 1916?
- the only College staff member killed in World War I was called Joe Blogg?
- the number of students in College fell from 140 in 1914 to just 16 in 1917?
- in World War II there was a large water tank beside J staircase to help fight fires?
- the RAF took over most of the College in World War II?
- a Downing man wrote to his tutor in 1945 using Hitler's personal notepaper which he had found in the wreckage of Berlin?

These and lots of other intriguing bits of information appear in the Downing College Association's new publication *Downing and the Two World Wars*. The idea for the book came from Girton College. In 2009 their alumni body, the Girton Roll, published a short book about Girton and Girtonians in the two

wars. It contained a substantial section of memories and reminiscences, and it seemed like a good idea to do something similar, not only to provide a short history, but perhaps to be able to add useful material to the College archives.

The project was carried out by Peter Thomson (1953), John Hicks (1955) and Gwyn Bevan (1948). They split the task between them, with Gwyn collecting material from, or about, surviving old members of the College, John writing up the story of the College itself in World War II from archive and other material, and Peter covering the First War in the same way.

There are pieces about 66 veterans of 1939–45, some written by themselves, some the result of material gathered previously by Gwyn in his role as the year representative for that generation and some from wives, widows and families. The contributors are all in their mid-eighties or older; the oldest is the 102-year-old Leslie Southwell (1927) who was one of several Downing men involved

in code-breaking at Bletchley Park and elsewhere. Some, naturally, are now rather frail, and a number were reluctant to talk about their experiences either through modesty over their achievements or simply because they had no wish to recall traumatic experiences, but they were unfailingly pleasant and courteous in response to Gwyn's approaches.

The work that John and Peter did in the archives revealed interesting and sometimes quirky facts. The splendidly-named Joe Blogg was employed as a "bicycle cleaner and shoe-black" at a wage of £1 a week, and the World War II emergency water tank was only ever used to dunk unpopular undergraduates. The College in the two wars was quite different. In 1914–18 nearly everyone disappeared into the forces except for a few medics, the unfit and conscientious objectors. In 1939–45 it was full of people who were mostly on short courses before joining the forces. The College and its members played a useful role in both wars, something that is worth recording.

Matriculation 2010

Don't miss out. Look at the latest images from College life and alumni events on our Flickr page.



Join the Downing Conversation Online

Get the latest College news as it happens by joining our online channels



www.facebook.com/downingcollege



www.twitter.com/downingcollege



www.flickr.com/photos/downingcollege

EVENTS CALENDAR 2011

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2011

26 JANUARY

Year Reps' Meeting & Dinner

29 JANUARY

Griffins Annual Dinner

25-27 MARCH

Catalysis Conference

8 APRIL

1958 Reunion Lunch

9 APRIL

Reunion Dinner

30 APRIL

Segreants Dinner

14 MAY

MA Reunion Dinner

MAY (TBC)

Cambridge Reception

11 JUNE

1983 Reunion Dinner

18 JUNE

Donors' Garden Party

9 JULY

1749 Society Reception

23-25 SEPTEMBER

Association Dinner & Alumni Weekend

Please note that the information above may be subject to change and you are advised to contact the Development Office for confirmation.

For further details on any of the events listed, or to find out what else is happening throughout the year, please visit the Development Office website

www.downingcambridge.com or contact Sarah Durban, Alumni Relations Coordinator
Tel: 01223 334850, Email: serdz@cam.ac.uk