



Fiona Watson Remembered



Darwin's new bridge – page 3



Darwin buys The Malting House overlooking the Mill Pond – page 2.

Fiona Watson (Darwin 1991-92) was tragically killed in the suicide bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad at the age of just 35 years. Fiona obtained an M.Phil in International Relations and Ballistic Studies whilst at Darwin.

Prior to joining the UN, Fiona worked with the European Commission and for a period with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. During her career with the UN Fiona had been involved in many of the world's hot spots, including Bosnia and Kosovo before Iraq. A very gifted and experienced linguist, she worked in a prominent capacity with the UN for almost four years as a political analyst. At the time of her death she was political affairs officer on the staff of the Head of the UN mission to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. Mr de Mello was also killed by the bomb attack.

It was clear from the many moving tributes to Fiona at her funeral service in Kirkcaldy that she was an outstanding young woman, with a rare combination of intellectual brilliance, a warm and sunny personality, vitality, compassion and an engaging sense of humour. Family, friends and former colleagues were strongly represented at the service, with more than 150 there to pay their respects. Mr Hedi Annabi, Assistant Secretary General for the Department for Peacekeeping Operations at the UN in New York, represented the Secretary General of the UN and spoke movingly of her contribution and her promising career within the UN.

While Fiona was a high flyer in her career and destined for great things,

her drive and energies in this direction were also well tempered by her close friendships and her strong connection to her family in Pittenweem. A marvellous ambassador for Scotland and a person who evoked respect and affection in equal measure wherever she went, Fiona will be deeply mourned by all who knew her.

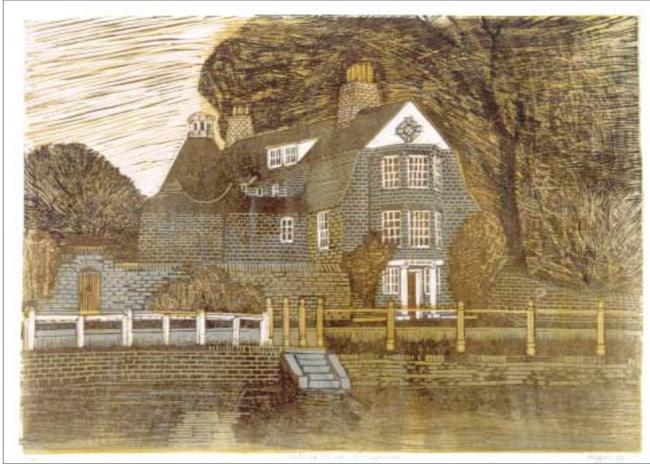
Fiona's family and friends have set up **The Fiona Watson Memorial Fund** to provide bursaries for final year students at her first university, Heriot-Watt, to enable them to spend a year with the UN or a similar international organisation. Donations can be made online at www.hw.ac.uk/fionawatsonfund. Donation forms and further tributes to Fiona can also be found on Darwin's website (www.dar.cam.ac.uk/alumni).

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Darwin Gets Into 'Property' –

In More Ways Than One!



Woodcut of the Malting House by Rosemary Myers recently donated to Darwin by Peter Jonker research fellow in astronomy on leaving for Harvard.

As many Darwinians will recall, a particular limitation of the College is providing sufficient accommodation. Normally, we can only hope to provide rooms for about half of the 450 or so resident students on the roll, which means that only the first year's accommodation is now guaranteed. One of the main reasons for the limitation is that there is currently no space for any substantial building because our existing 'footprint' is almost completely full; another, naturally, is the matter of funding.

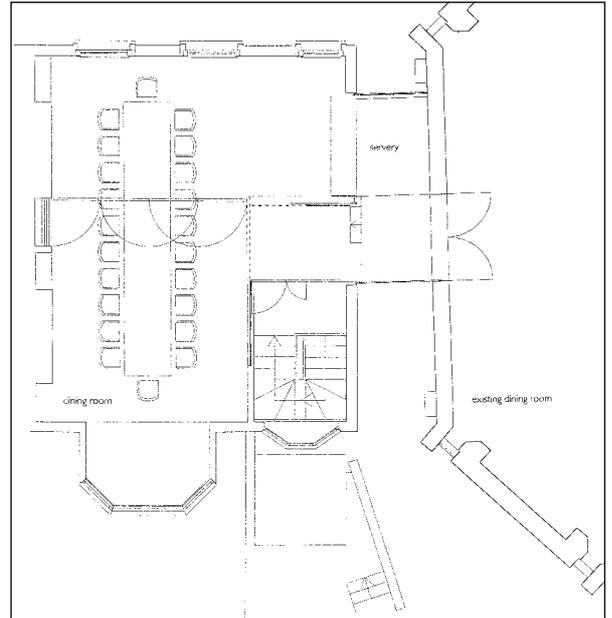
So, we were very interested, early in 2003, to hear that a large residential property just across Newnham Road from the College was to be put on the market. The Malting House is situated on the corner of Newnham Road and Malting Lane, a particularly busy corner. Yet its outlook is over the Mill Pond and Sheep's Green – a lovely backwater of the Cam and a broad meadow where cattle still graze. It is also only a short stroll from the College Dining Hall and other facilities.

The Malting House was originally exactly that: a warehouse, Oast house, and small brewery owned, in the 1830s,

by the Beales family – a well-known Cambridge trading dynasty. In 1909, the then Dean of Trinity College (Dr Stewart) bought the buildings and appointed the soon-to-be well-known architects, Smith & Brewer, to convert most of the properties into a wonderful *Arts & Crafts* house. Two or three years later the remaining buildings were converted into a small hall to host musical evenings; Albert Schweitzer give a lecture on Bach there, and from 1955 it was the rehearsal base for the Cambridge Schools Holiday Orchestra. Appropriately, during the 1920s it was the Malting House School – one of the early 'children's community' schools: no fixed curriculum, no discipline, and no punishments! Aimed at what we today recognise as special-needs pupils, it certainly seemed to work for, of those who stayed for more than a few terms, four became members of the staff of the University, one became a

medical consultant, and another an actor. In later years the house reverted to a family home.

It was clear from quick inspection that it offered us another 14 substantial bed-sitting rooms and a new Public Room. However, the likely purchase costs and the estimated conversion costs were daunting and the equation of costs, available funds, and possible income was worked and reworked. In the end, we agreed that there were major advantages in trying to purchase the house, and that we should dispose of three smaller, outlying properties in Eltisley Avenue partially to fund the cost. Nevertheless, the purchase and refurbishment has still required us to make sizeable inroads into the College's capital. The final cost of purchase and conversion will be in the region of £1.5M – a very large sum for the College, but for an opportunity too good to miss.



Architect's drawing of the link between the dining room and No 1 Newnham Terrace.

Darwinian Achievements

Professor Hugh Mellor (Fellow) has been elected to an Honorary Fellowship of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Professor Elizabeth Blackburn (1971-75) received the Bristol-Myers Squibb Distinguished Achievement Award in Cancer Research (see also page 7).

Professor Bernd Fischer (Research Fellow 1977/8) has been elected Dean of the Medical Faculty of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Professor John Clarke (PhD 1964-68) received an ScD at the Senate

Another on-going major College building project, now nearing completion, is the conversion and refurbishment of No 1 Newnham Terrace. This will provide an additional public entertaining/dining room adjacent to, and at the same level as, the current Dining Hall and seating around 24-30 guests. Two fully equipped seminar rooms, capable of being opened out for use as a single large plenary room, have been created at ground level, while two top-quality guest rooms are being provided on the top floor. New cloakrooms and lavatories have been provided for the public areas by enlarging the basement area.

And finally, another 'property' acquisition in the last six months has been the replacement for the old Footbridge, always an integral part of all Old Darwinians' memories of College. Undermined and damaged irreparably by the 2002 floods, it took almost a year to gain the approvals and licenses required for this project because, in the British way of things, the old bridge turned out to be a 'Listed Building'! Taking it down and replacing it with an entirely new (though identical) English-oak bridge constituted (to the local

planners) 'demolition of a Listed Building', and its replacement, a 'redevelopment of the site'!! Finally, however, the new bridge is finished and certainly very firmly in place as it now rests on 24-foot foundation piles.

When originally built in 1889, the footbridge cost Sir George Darwin the princely sum of £12 and 10 shillings (about \$20). The new bridge, built to meet all 'Listed' heritage requirements and modern engineering and health & safety regulations is costing some £30,000 (c\$45,000)! It was extremely difficult to justify, or even to find, that level of funding from the College's limited resources – particularly given the commitment to the purchase of The Malting House. Happily, we have been very fortunate, and are especially grateful, to have most of that cost met by a wonderful donation from Hugh and Julia Fleming: Hugh is one of The College's *emeritus* Fellows.

STOP PRESS – Darwin has just purchased No 49 Newnham Road (Roger's Florists) adding more accommodation close to the college.

Peter Brindle (Bursar)



Opening of the new footbridge

The magnificent new footbridge to Darwin's islands was formally opened by Hugh and Julia Fleming at a small ceremony attended by many members of College. The College is exceptionally grateful to Hugh and Julia for their most generous support of the project to rebuild the listed bridge (see Bursar's report for more detail).



DARWIN COLLEGE LECTURE SERIES 2004 EVIDENCE

Carlo Ginzburg	HISTORICAL EVIDENCE AND ITS AMBIGUITIES	16 January
Karen Armstrong	EVIDENCE: A RED HERRING?	23 January
Cherie Booth	LEGAL EVIDENCE	30 January
Monica Grady	EVIDENCE FOR LIFE IN SPACE	6 February
Peter Lipton	EVIDENCE AND EXPLANATION	13 February
Vincent Courtillot	EVIDENCE FOR CATASTROPHES	20 February
Phillip Dawid	STATISTICAL EVIDENCE	27 February
Brian Greene	MATHEMATICAL EVIDENCE	5 March

Fridays at 5.30pm

Lady Mitchell Hall, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge

House on 13th December 2003. We believe he is the first Old Darwinian to have achieved this honour.

Professor Sir Geoffrey Lloyd (previous Master) has been awarded an honorary degree by the University of Athens.

Dr Richard Henderson (Fellow) has been elected into an Honorary Fellowship of Corpus Christi College.

Dr Sharon Ashbrook (Research Fellow) has been awarded a Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin fellowship.

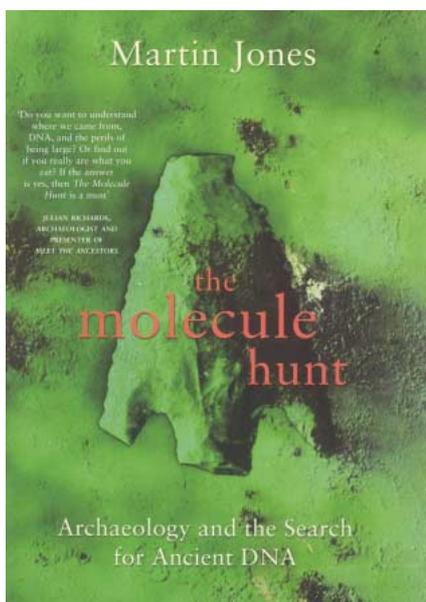
Dr Grant Tapsell (Research Fellow) has been awarded a British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

Drs Simon Schaffer and David MacKay have been elected to professorships at Cambridge.



The Molecule Hunt

Professor Martin Jones (Fellow) describes the thinking behind his latest book.



Ancient DNA, the subject of *The Molecule Hunt*, has attracted a high profile, but in scientific terms has had a very bumpy ride. A number of studies that have graced the pages of our most eminent scientific journals, and hit the headlines of our newspapers, have later crumbled away, sometimes taking reputations with them. Even as *Jurassic Park* was being filmed, the possibility of charting dinosaur genes, if not whole extinct genomes, was still being seriously entertained within the scientific community, but has now been relegated to fiction.

The *Molecule Hunt* was great fun to write. Not only was the topic of ancient DNA an exciting one, but circumstances had brought me close to the emergence of its scientific study. I was able to write about a field that was rapidly changing the way we thought about archaeology, but not just in terms of the emerging contributions to knowledge, results that were impressive in their own right. I could also focus upon the actual process of doing the research, and all the human strengths and weaknesses it revealed. In fact I felt the *only* way I could write this book was as a chronicle of human endeavour, sometimes brilliant, sometimes fundamentally flawed.

I first got interested in ancient DNA back in the 1980's, after reading in *Nature* of the detection of a fragment of DNA sequence from the brain of a mummified ancient Egyptian. This is one of the many studies whose credibility has since been questioned, but fortunately the reputation of its author has remained intact. Svante Pääbo went on to play a major role in many key ancient DNA projects, and to deliver a Darwin Lecture on the topic in our 50th anniversary of DNA lecture series (see advertisement for published volume, page 5). At the time I read that paper, I happened to be sitting on a research council committee dealing with archaeological science, and decided to press for a major funding programme to look at ancient biomolecules in general. A couple of years later the *Ancient Biomolecule Initiative* was underway with two million pounds to spend under my chairmanship. It was from that position that I could watch all the fun of a new field of science in formation.

A quite remarkable range of scholars were brought together in this way: we archaeologists found ourselves trying to comprehend the arcane tongues of molecular biologists, geneticists, cancer researchers, organic geochemists, palaeontologists, while they in turn listened in wonder to the strange terminology of archaeological cultures. It was a bit like a multicultural frontier town, with a lot of languages spoken, no one entirely sure of everything that was going on, and a certain amount of fighting in the streets as individuals staked their various claims to the newly available territory.

Through the book I interweave discussions of archaeological problems, and the manner in which ancient biomolecules may solve them, with some allusion to the tensions and debates between the players. I wasn't entirely sure how far to go down this route with individuals who were not only still living, but with whom I could well find myself working, and who more importantly might well referee my own future grant proposals. Some of the main players have engaged in incandescent rows to which I barely allude (even when the participants themselves have immortalised their feelings in print) because it hasn't been relevant to the general direction of the science. However in some cases it did have an impact, and in those instances I don't think my account leaves much doubt about the tensions, conflicts and sensitive egos that are as much a feature of research as brilliance, clear thinking and collaboration.

For all that lively interaction, the contribution to knowledge has been considerable. Perhaps the best known example is the genetics of the Neanderthals, but what it has told us about the origins of agriculture and the movement of peoples has been equally remarkable. Although DNA is the molecule that makes it to the headlines, the other biomolecules that I discuss in one section, lipids, proteins and so on, are also making an impact, and may indeed prove to become a more conspicuous element of routine archaeology than DNA itself. It seems that a very large number of the millions of pot fragments that dominate the archaeological record of recent millennia

retain a fatty signature of the way they were used.

A danger of writing a book on a research area that is so young and dynamic is the possibility of it being hopelessly out of date before it reaches the shops. I'm pleasantly reassured that it looks like it will have some endurance, in large part as a result of lodging the results within an account of the scientific process. Of course the science continues to move fast. The completion of the *Human Genome Project* was announced while the text was in galley proofs. Since the book was published, further exciting things have happened, for example the first complete mitochondrial sequence of an extinct animal (the Moa). If I were to write it now, I would devote a whole chapter to the marvellous work of Allen Cooper on the ecology of the ancient land bridge across the Bering Straits. I believe that new work on the DNA of disease organisms could be really significant. Now that our major predator of the historic period, the bacterium responsible for plague, has been fully sequenced, it seems it is remarkably young in evolutionary terms. When our species first travelled across Europe, the plague bacterium's ancestor was no more than a mild tummy bug. Perhaps it evolved to something more deadly in the context of farming, and the domestication of plants and animals. That might render the Black Death one of the first nightmare consequences of genetic engineering, but this is pure speculation. In the very last chapter of the book, I allude to the possibility that the timescales of Jurassic Park (if not the actual dinosaurs) may return to ancient DNA studies, with promising results from bones half a million years old from Brittany. Since then, DNA of this antiquity has been successively identified from within particles of soil of around that date. Indeed, it could be that ancient faeces and soil particles could prove ideal "time capsules" for ancient DNA, and if that is true, who knows what latent forms lie beneath the ground?

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 HB; Allen Lane. ISBN 0713994231
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 HB; Arcade Publishing; ISBN 1559706112
 PB; Arcade Publishing; ISBN 1559706791

Award for Cambridge InnoVision Limited



(from left to right) Ambili Nair, Nittai Madrid, Martin Weber, Rangi Robinson

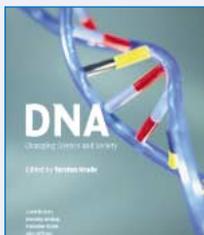


Two former Darwinians, **Dr Ambili Nair** (1992-97) and **Nittai Madrid** (1996-2003), are part of a new company, Cambridge InnoVision Limited, which was runner-up in the Wall Street Journal Europe's European Innovation Award. Ambili is VP for Business Development and Nittai is the Finance Director. The CEO is **Martin Weber** (Ambili's husband) and **Rangi Robinson** is the Multimedia Director. The company will exploit cutting edge computer vision technology that will make the acquisition of 3D models significantly quicker, cheaper and more realistic than currently possible.

Andrew Prentice (PhD 1974-77) enjoys one of the perks of being Secretary to the Darwin College Society at a mini-reunion with Sophie Moore (left of picture, PhD 1996-2000) and Pascale Chavatte-Palmer (PhD 1992-96) during the 2nd World Congress on Fetal Origins of Adult Disease in Brighton.



CAMBRIDGE



In the Second Term of every academic year since 1986, Darwin College has organised a series of eight public lectures. Each is built around a single theme, approached from a multi-disciplinary perspective and prepared for a general audience by an leading authority in his or her subject. These lectures have been collected and published by Cambridge University Press.

The latest book in the series is 'DNA' (edited by Torsten Krude) from the 2003 Darwin Lecture Series (ISBN: 0 521 82378 1 price £25.00). The volume on 'Space' (edited by Francois Penz, Gregory Radick and Robert Howell) will shortly be published.

Books in this series are available to members and alumni of Darwin College at 20% off from either the Cambridge bookshop at 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge or direct by phone +44 (0)1223 326050, fax +44 (0)1223 326111 or email to directcustserve@cambridge.org.



Workplace visit.

At the Xining Railway Workshops to discuss the social problems arising from privatisation.

The Master Visits China

Viewing a new frontier from an old frontier.

A windy visit to the Great wall after a conference at which representatives of ACAS and the TUC were invited to discuss the implications of encroaching capitalism for a communist trade union movement.



Traditional Tibetan greeting

A welcome to the high grasslands of the Qinhai plateau by the provincial trade union chairwoman.

The Fellowship

The Fellowship has recently seen a number of departures and arrivals. Of our Research Fellows, **Dr George Chen** moved to a Readership in Chemical Engineering at Nottingham University, **Dr Andy Bunker** took up a Lectureship in Astronomy at Exeter University, and **Dr Hannah Thompson** took up a Lectureship in French at Royal Holloway New Bedford College. **Dr John Craig** returned to British Columbia. Others remain in Cambridge. **Dr James Leach** has moved to another post-doctoral Fellowship in Social Anthropology at King's College, **Dr Ralf Herbrich** continues to work for Microsoft. One of our new Official Fellows, **Dr Laura Itzhaki** of the MRC Cancer Cell Unit, was herself a Research Fellow some years back. The

other, **Dr Paul Robertson**, is an electrical engineer who provides the College with a welcome link to the Engineering Faculty.

Our new Research Fellows span a splendid range of disciplines. **Dr Sharon Ashbrook**, the Charles and Katherine Darwin Research Fellow, is a chemist developing novel NMR techniques in mineralogy. The Schlumberger Interdisciplinary Research Fellow, **Dr Selvino de Kort**, is an experimental psychologist working with birds to study memory development. **Dr Alexandra Lianeri**, the new Moses and Mary Finley Fellow in Ancient History, is examining the way in which the political thought of Classical Greece has been interpreted in more recent times. **Dr Michael Murphy** is a cosmologist using observational

data to question the widely assumed constancy of the force of electromagnetism. An historian, **Dr Grant Tapsell**, is analysing political life in the Church in Late Stuart England. **Dr Mark Hughes** is working in Material Sciences on the properties of polymer-coated nanotubes. The new Microsoft Research Fellow **Dr John Winn** will be developing a variational inference technique to model the way we see things. Finally we have the added bonus of not one but two Munby Visiting Fellows: **Dr Alexandra Gillespie** has joined us to assess the collection of a 16th century bibliophile, and **Dr Felicity Henderson** is charting a route through 17th century Cambridge manuscript miscellanies.

Willy Brown (Master)

Darwinian Descendants

Karen Wynter (nee **Newstead** 1991-95) had a baby girl, Elizabeth Jane, born on 13 December 2003 in Cape Town. Karen was a past DCSA President.

Articles on the Darwin website

(www.dar.cam.ac.uk/alumni)

Henry H.L. Chan (MPhil 1999-2000) has sent us a link to his monograph 'Cambridge from an Asian Student's Perspective' which combines affectionate memories of college food and dons with a serious socio-political analysis of higher education in the UK especially Cambridge.

News

An international conference on 20th century Hungarian literature, entitled "Sándor Márai and his Contemporaries" will be held in the Old Library of Darwin College from 18-20th April 2004. This follows the great success of Márai's novel *Embers*. Anyone interested in this conference should contact George Gömöri. The conference forms part of The Hungarian Cultural Year in Britain ("Magyar Magic. Hungary in Focus 2004 – Cambridge") that was launched in Somerset House, London on 3rd November 2003. Events of the Cultural Year will take place in ten cities in the United Kingdom, including Cambridge, where next March-April concerts, exhibitions and a week of Hungarian Food (at the *Pink Geranium*) will be organised by Mari Gömöri.

Between November 8-10 2003 the Hungarian Academy of Sciences hosted the World Science Forum, an international conference of scientists and scholars. Cambridge was represented by the University's former Vice-Chancellor Sir Alec Broers and by George Gömöri, Emeritus Fellow of Darwin College.

Major Cancer Research Prize for Dr Elizabeth Blackburn



At a glittering ceremony held beneath the giant blue whale in the Museum of Natural History in New York, **Elizabeth H. Blackburn** (PhD, 1971-75) received the Bristol-Myers Squibb Award for Distinguished Achievement in Cancer Research. The award recognises her groundbreaking discoveries with telomeres – parts of chromosomes that critically affect the life span of cells – and the enzyme telomerase that regulates them. This work, initiated during her time at LMB and Darwin, has opened up important new avenues for cancer research.

Blackburn's work began in 1978 with her successful DNA sequencing of telomeres, years before sophisticated cloning and DNA sequencing technologies were fully developed. Her laboratory went on to better elucidate the role of telomeres in protecting chromosomes, which carry the information needed to produce all the cells in the body. Additional work by Blackburn and her colleagues in the 1980s led to the discovery of a new enzyme, telomerase, which regulates the activities of telomeres, and without which cells stop dividing. By elucidating this information about cell life and death, a new understanding has developed about how such regulation can go awry in cancer cells.

Elizabeth has previously been the recipient of numerous honours including the American Cancer Society Medal of Honor and the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation Alfred P. Sloan Award. She was named California Scientist of the Year in 1999.



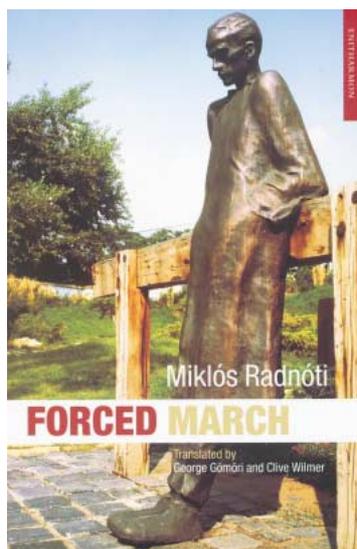
Darwin student **Raeid Jewad** (pictured) was accidentally shot by US troops whilst visiting his homeland from which he had been exiled for 23 years. His injuries were not life-threatening but have caused nerve damage. Ironically he was wearing a USA T-shirt when hit.



John Clarke (centre) prior to receiving his ScD in December. Also pictured (from left) are Professor Sir Brian Pippard and Lady Pippard, Dr Greta Clarke and The Master.



Miklós Radnóti 1940



New Edition of Radnóti poetry

Forced March a new, extended selection of the poems of Hungarian poet Miklós Radnóti has recently been published by Enitharmon Press. Radnóti, a Jewish-born Catholic, wrote some of his most moving poems in 1944 in a labour camp in Bor, Serbia. As the Germans retreated, he and his fellow inmates were force-marched back towards Germany through Hungary. On November 9, 1944 those who were too weak to continue, including Radnóti, were executed by a firing-squad near the village of Alda in Western Hungary. A year later, when the bodies were exhumed, Radnóti's was identified by a notebook of handwritten poems in his raincoat pockets, included in this present edition. The poems, translated by Cambridge-based poet Clive Wilmer and George Gömöri (Emeritus Fellow of Darwin), are, in the words of poet/critic Dick Davis 'an

extraordinary record of a mind determined to affirm its civilization in the face of overwhelming odds'.

The statue of Miklós Radnóti on the front cover of *Forced March* is the work of Imre Varga, Hungarian sculptor, who this year won the Mason Silver Medal of the British Portrait Sculptors Society. It represents the poet resting against a fence during the fateful march and is recognised in Hungary as one of Varga's best artistic achievements.

Forced March had its first launch, with readings by the translators in Clare Hall, Cambridge on October 28, 2003, followed by one in Oriel College, Oxford in November, while the London launch took place on December 1st in the New End Theatre, Hampstead. The book is available from most booksellers or from Enitharmon Press, London, priced £8.95.

The Critics' View

'[We are] fortunate in having the marvellous translations of Clive Wilmer and George Gömöri, translations which are very fine poems in English, and which in the compact intensity of their lines can hit the reader like a stab in the heart'

Peter Gilbert, Jewish Quarterly

'He is one of the very greatest poets of the twentieth century, and Clive Wilmer's and George Gömöri's versions are by far the best that exist in English'

Dick Davis

In a Restless Hour

Miklós Radnóti

Windswept heights in the sunshine were my dwelling.
Oh homeland, now in a valley you have imprisoned
The broken son you clothe in shadow,
No heavenly play of sunlight here to soothe me.

Crags above me, glorious sky in the distance,
I must live in the depths with speechless boulders.
Must I be dumb too? What would move me
Now to poetry? Death? Who is it asks me,

Who calls me to a reckoning for my life
Or for this poem here, which remains a fragment?
Know this: nobody will mourn you
Or bury you, nor will the valley cradle

Or the wind scatter you. Yet the high cliff-side –
If not today then tomorrow – will echo, singing,
What I've to speak, which sons and daughters
Will understand, the more as they grow in stature.

10 January 1939

Translated by Clive Wilmer and George Gömöri

Recent
publications:

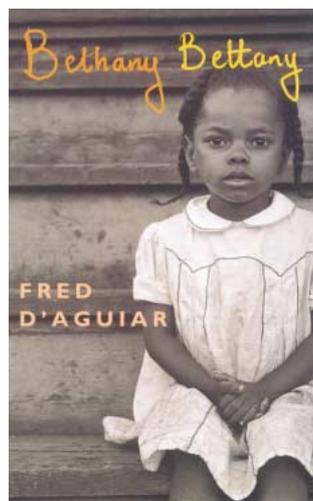
Ian Stevenson, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Virginia and a former Visiting Fellow of Darwin College, sent his new

book, *European Cases of the Reincarnation Type* (McFarland and Co., Jefferson, NC and London) for the College library.

Book Review

Bethany Bettany

By Fred D'Aguiar



This novel is the haunting and evocative story of a child's search for her own identity. Bethany Bettany lives with her dead father's family in a rambling house in the town of Boundary in Guyana, a country increasingly troubled by war. Constantly punished for her absent mother's sins, Bethany lives a miserable and tortured childhood. But the memory of her father and the hope of finding her mother inspire her to solve the mysteries of her existence. Is her mother really responsible for her father's death? And why does her surname mean so much to every stranger she meets? Bethany's unending curiosity and cunning provide the reader with a series of clues which add up to a powerful and moving story of personal and political revolution. D'Aguiar's clever manipulation of different voices tells Bethany's story from many angles: as well as empathising with Bethany herself, the reader is also asked to understand the often troubling actions of those around her. Nothing is straightforward in this novel as the differences between right and wrong, good and evil are constantly undermined by D'Aguiar's provocative narrative. The message of this compelling tale seems to be that conflict can never be resolved without pain or suffering, but that this same pain can also be the way to greater personal and political freedom.

Hannah Thompson (Research Fellow)

Fred D'Aguiar was the Judith E. Wilson Fellow in Darwin in 1989-90.

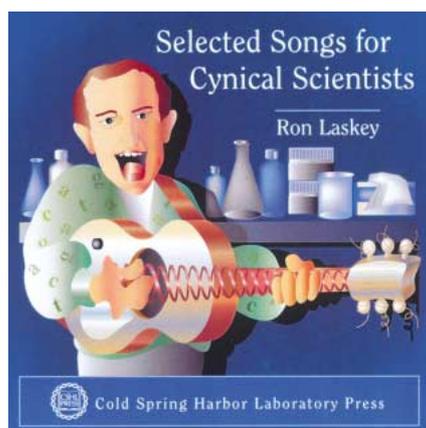
(London: Chatto & Windus, 2003) ISBN 0701173823 HB £15.99

CD Review

Selected songs for cynical scientists,

by Ron Laskey

(yes, that Ron Laskey)



This is a highly dangerous product, and not just for scientists. (What is it with these scientists that they think they are the only people to be scooped, stuck on trains or in airports, or be subject to conference nightmares?) It presents a threat to any academic likely to find themselves in the vicinity of a lecture room, a laboratory, a conference, a committee meeting, a learned journal, a railway station, an airport, or a bicycle. Most of us, therefore, are at risk for most of our waking hours. That said the danger itself is not of the highest order, at least to those who do not object to attracting strange looks from bystanders. The victim will be prone to assume a silly grin, do a little dance and hum happily, even under the most adverse circumstances.

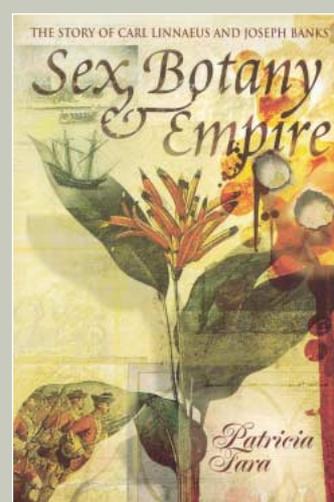
This, notwithstanding expectations that might be raised by the title, is not Tom Lehrer: just as funny but much gentler and more self-deprecating, and, it must be said, Laskey has an incomparably better voice. The echoes are rather of Flanders and Swann, and of the folk singers of the 1960s thus combining, for those of us who spent much of them sitting in smoky barns, nostalgia with targets less distressing than Vietnam, but more mundanely frustrating in day to day life: rail services, air services, and bureaucratic incompetence in general, and all this in a spirit not of bitterness but of hilarity.

While fourteen of the sixteen tracks bring wit and merriment to the exasperations of the day, the remaining

two are different in character. 'Songs of innocence and truth' is an elegy for the sixties, with their passionate and romantic protests, and the last is a breathtaking (literally) rendition of 'The Barley Mow'. As for 'The joys of singing': it is indeed a painful tale, but, however delightful this CD is, the world should probably be grateful that it propelled Ron into being a scientist.

Elisabeth Leedham-Green (Fellow)

Selected songs for cynical scientists,
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press
(ISBN 0-87969-685-0). £13 plus 65p postage,
from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press Europe,
73 Lime Walk, Headington, Oxford OX3 7AD



Former fellow, Patricia Fara's book on Newton was featured in our last issue. Her latest offering tells the story of Carl Linnaeus and Joseph Banks and is published by Icon books at £9.99.

ISBN 1-84046-488-7

Lord Rayne

Lord Rayne is a familiar figure to every member of Darwin, because of the magnificent portrait of him by Graham Sutherland that dominates the Dining Hall. Fewer will know that the reason it is there is because it was the generosity of Lord Rayne, through the Rayne Foundation, that made the building of the Hall and of the rest of the original college building possible. Some of you will have encountered Lord Rayne when he has been at Foundation Day Dinners, which he attended every year until these last few years when he was too ill to do so.

Max Rayne was born in London in 1918 to a family of poor immigrant Jews from Poland. He served in the RAF during the 1939-45 War and after the war returned briefly to the family tailoring business, but he saw possibilities in property development at which he showed prodigious gifts that made him a great fortune. He believed that the money he made should be used for the public good and his beneficiaries were very varied. The Sutherland was part of his deep love of art, which led to both a splendid personal collection, but also to generous support of the National Gallery. He was also a generous supporter of the theatre, opera, ballet and architecture, as well as many other activities, notably



Lord Rayne's portrait by Graham Sutherland

hospitals, including St Thomas' and the Burns Unit at East Grinstead. He gave freely of his time on committees and was a long-serving Chairman of the Board of the National Theatre. He was also a governor of the Royal Ballet School and played an important role in RADA, the Yehudi Menuhin School and an extraordinary number of other artistic and charitable ventures. In acknowledgement of his generosity both of his time and money, he was raised to the peerage in 1976. He died October 10, 2003 aged 85. We at Darwin have every reason to be grateful for his interest in and generosity to the College, and we regret his passing.

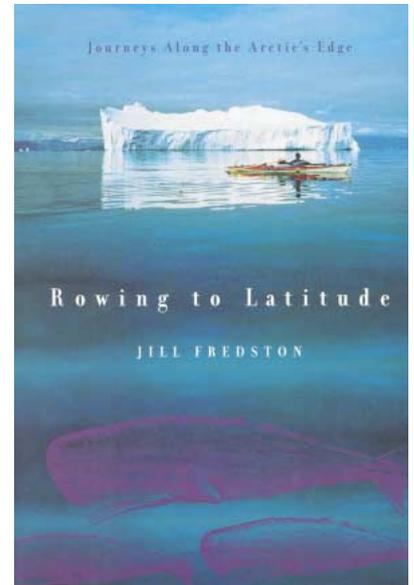
Sir Arnold Burgen (Former Master)

Professor Jack Jacobs

Readers will be saddened to learn of the death on 13th December 2003 of **Professor Jack Jacobs**, Emeritus Professor of Geophysics at the University and a Fellow of the College. Professor Jacobs was Vice-Master of Darwin between 1978 and 1983 and retained an active interest long after his retirement and move to Aberystwyth.

Lady Ruth Young

Older members will be saddened to hear of the death on 20 September 2003 of **Lady Young**, widow of the first Master of the College, Professor Sir Frank Young. In our early years she was a frequent and vivid presence, nearly always dining with Frank, and organising lunch parties in College. As well as making a great contribution to establishing Darwin's reputation as a happy place, she had a flurry of medical degrees and was a renowned practitioner in psychiatry in Cambridge.



'Rowing to Latitude'

By Jill Fredston

Humpback whales have learnt a neat trick to concentrate their prey. They swim in a deep circle releasing a fine veil of bubbles. This sixty-foot wide silver column frightens the fish towards the centre. The whale opens its cavernous mouth beneath them and rockets upward emerging through the surface like an escalator exploding from its shaft.

Now imagine that you know this fact, that you are canoeing through the Gulf of Alaska separated from the icy water beneath you by a few millimetres of fibreglass, and that you suddenly notice a perfect circle of bubbles all around you!

Apology

In our last issue Mark Krupnick's name was misspelled in his obituary, and parts of Eric Homburger's obituary in *The Guardian* were used before permission had been received. We offer our profound apologies for these errors. We have been asked to publicise a fund set up in Mark's memory, Donations may be sent to: Mark Krupnick Memorial Library Fund, 55 E. Washington Ave, Suite 1219, Chicago, IL 60602.

'... the whale burst from the water exactly where our boats had been a stroke or two before, right through the ripple marks left by our blades. In the time I took to blink, the whale's head reversed direction, arcing downward. It punctured the water less than two boat lengths behind me and half that distance from Doug.'

Doug Fesler was Alaska's reigning avalanche expert when he reluctantly took on Jill Fredston as a research assistant in 1982 soon after she had finished her master's degree at Darwin and the Scott Polar Institute. Now co-directors of the Alaska Mountain Safety Centre their book 'Snow Sense' has become one of the seminal manuals on the prediction and avoidance of avalanches.

Avalanches are their winter work. In the summer they search for nature, for absolute freedom and wilderness, and in doing so have rowed an estimated 22,000 miles through the Arctic. Though each journey takes its toll of their bodies they appear to have no intention of stopping and when done with the Arctic have plans to tackle Tierra del Fuego and the challenges of the south.

'Rowing to Latitude: Journeys Along the Arctic's Edge' lyrically describes these journeys with an engaging mixture of grit and realism tempered by passion and romance. Jill and Doug are clearly a tough couple but have poetry at their core. Jill was frustrated by Cambridge. She left England '...anxious to trade confined waters for open spaces, and to leave manicured greens, black academic gowns, prescribed manners and overcooked brussels sprouts behind.'

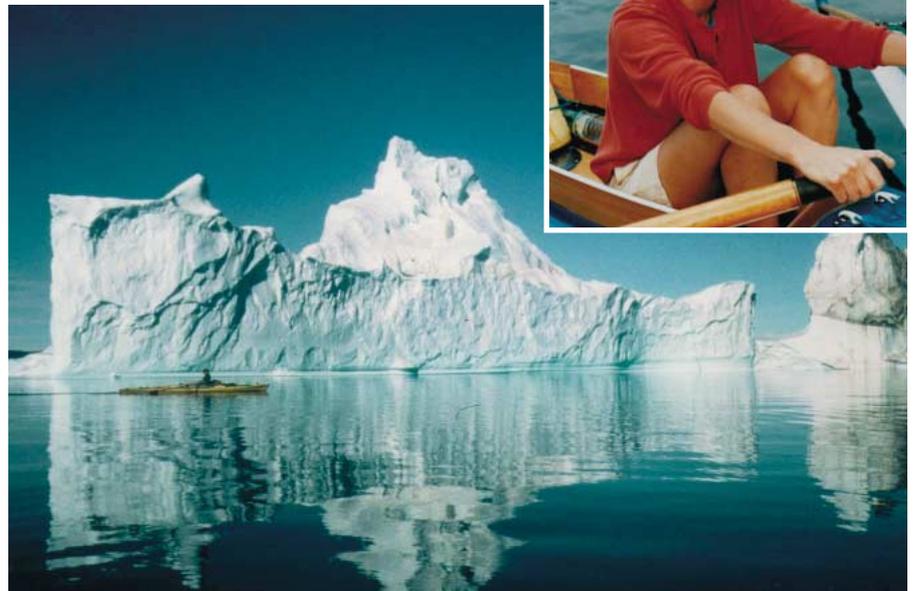
Doug was 13 years her senior and must have exuded a taste of independence that Jill yearned. 'He looked the part of an avalanche expert, with a solid torso, eyes squeezed into a perpetual squint, and a huge beard that gave him the aura of a mountain sage.' Before too long he realised that this Dartmouth and Cambridge-educated New Yorker had something special and years later they quietly married.

As these excerpts indicate *Rowing to Latitude* is, at one level, a highly personal autobiography, but its main attraction is as a travelogue of their astonishing annual quest to row yet further around their beloved Arctic. It is for this that it has been acclaimed by fellow travel writers and was a clear winner of the 2002 National Outdoor Book Award. To taste more of this remarkable book you must buy your own copy, but I will leave you with some more of Jill's memories of Cambridge.

'I enjoyed the more than century old British rowing traditions, especially the pleasing barbarism of some of the races. The object of one series was to catch the boat that started ahead of us and literally to "bump" it. Our women's four was good. We dodged dead cows floating in the narrow river channel and managed to beat the less select men's eights.' Armed with her trophy oar, she some years later managed to persuade Doug that rowing was more efficient than paddling and now they both face the stern – and hence can see the whales that just missed them.

Andrew Prentice

Rowing to Latitude is published by North Point Press and available in hardcover from Amazon. ISBN 0-374-28180-7



Tidal flow hits Silver Street



As part of the Cambridge Core Traffic Scheme Silver Street has been redesigned. In peak periods rising bollards restrict flow to authorised vehicles such as taxis. At other times there is a tidal flow system which only allows one-way traffic. The changes have required a proliferation of ugly street furniture and have caused unending confusion in their early days. However, there is certainly less noise and walking through the canyon of Silver Street is much safer.

From the Emails

News of Erik Diaz Bustos, Chile:

Dr Erik Diaz Bustos (PhD 1988-1990) returned to his native Chile with the skills he learnt in Cambridge in whole-body indirect calorimetry and stable isotope tracer methods. He now heads the Laboratorio de Metabolismo Energetico at INTA, Universidad de Chile in Santiago. In keeping with his professional interests in obesity, energy balance and healthy body weight, Erik maintains a high level of fitness with regular half-marathons and as much time as possible mountaineering in his beloved Andes. The picture shows him with his sons, Erik (Jr) and Andy, on their latest "cumbre" in which they reached the top of El Plomo (5700m). Aconcagua is the goal for 2004.



George Okello Abungu (PhD 1985-1990) writes from Kenya:

In the political chaos in the run-up to last year's general election, the then President terminated my contract as Director General of the national Museums (allegedly for being too close to the opposition ... now the ruling party!). I am now working freelance, in addition to continuing my various committee roles which include: Chairman of the Governing Council of the Kenya Cultural Centre; President of the International Standing Conference on Illicit Antiquities (the Cambridge Resolution); commissioner on the Kenya Commission for Higher Education; Chairman of the International Council of Museums Committee on Finances and Resources; as well as miscellaneous work with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre etc.



Mrs Frances Heeps retires

Many alumni will have had cause to be grateful to Frances Heeps who has retired after 20 years at Darwin. Frances started as Domestic Supervisor and then masterminded the Accommodations Office. We are extremely grateful for the calm way in which she coped each year with the nightmare of new arrivals when the question of just who will arrive seems always to be in the lap of the gods. Thank you, Frances, and enjoy your well-earned retirement.

Editors:

George Gömöri

Richard Jebb

Andrew Prentice

The editors especially welcome short articles, pictures, artwork and news from our overseas alumni.

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www.cambridge.org/promotional



Roger Whitehead

Photo credits:

Thanks to Phil Waterson for the pictures of The Malting House and Lord Rayne's portrait.

DCS Calendar 2004

6th March	Former Fellow's Buffet Lunch
12th March	Darwin Society Dinner
14th May	Darwin Society Dinner
4th June	Guest Night and Former Fellow's Reunion
18th June	Darwin Event/Ball
9th July	Old Darwinians' Garden Party (invitation enclosed)

Further details of OD events obtainable from DCS secretary <andrew.prentice@lshtm.ac.uk> and of Former Fellows' events from the Master's secretary <jmg39@cam.ac.uk>. Updates on the summer event can be found on the college website <www.dar.cam.ac.uk>.