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MAGDALENE MATTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF MAGDALENE COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE



MAGDALENE MATTERS

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Magdalene Matters is published by the Alumni and Development Office, twice yearly, in Michaelmas and Easter terms. For further information or if you would like to submit content for future issues please contact the Communications Officer, Mr Matthew Moon, or the Editor, Mrs Corinne Lloyd.

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of Magdalene College Cambridge.

Photo on the front cover 'Fellows Garden' courtesy of Mr Matthew Moon.



Development Team.

COMMENT from the Development Director

Dear Members,

What a glorious summer we've had! Garden parties, General Admission, May Balls and May Bumps... where the Magdalene Fellows' boat quadruple bumped, a feat only recorded once before.

We enjoyed the now traditional summer events, including the annual Family Day, which was tremendous fun. The Choir travelled to the East Coast of America in June and the very warm welcome we received was only matched by the generous hospitality we encountered throughout the trip from Members and Friends. September not only witnessed the return of many Members from the mid 1990s to 2000 attending their respective Reunions but also a fascinating lecture on aliens by Professor Lintott (1998) at the annual Donors' Day.

You will be well aware of our *Future foundations* Campaign and will find detailed information about its progress in the enclosed Annual Campaign Report. For now, I simply want to express my gratitude to all who have chosen to respond to our call for support. You have been magnificent in your response and more than 1600 of you have decided to make a gift since the launch. Thank you so very much. The long long list of benefactors is included in the Annual Campaign Report; every single donor is listed unless anonymity has been requested. You know what to do should you wish to see your name in print next year!

The Alumni & Development Office team is happily ensconced in offices in Mallory A in the Village. Kevin Bentley, Emma Tunbridge-Hibbert, Roxanne Vose, Sarah Reynolds, Matthew Moon and William Thong (2012) have recently been joined by Ellis Stratton, our new Development Administrator, and this year's Alumni Relations Intern, Sarah Rodwell (2015). Do pop in to the Alumni & Development Office to buy a Magdalene mug, postcards, tie or teddy bear, perhaps a bottle of the new Magdalene Gin, book a guest room, apply for event tickets or simply to say hello. We look forward to seeing you.

CORINNE LLOYD
EDITOR AND DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

COLLEGE CHOIR USA TOUR

BY MR GRAHAM WALKER (2016)

Groggy from May Week parties, a confident and relaxed College Choir boarded the coach to Heathrow for their first transatlantic tour in recent memory.

We were met at Boston Logan by Robert Chartener (1982), who, with a genuine yellow American school bus, carried the tired yet excited group to Trinity Episcopal Church, Concord MA, where we were allocated to members of the church community for homestays. These kind people were very happy to accommodate our students and they emerged refreshed and cheerful the following morning. We enjoyed a variety of activities including swimming in Walden Pond, visiting Orchard House (the home of Louisa May Allcott), and singing the national anthem at the North Bridge, the site of the death of the first British soldiers in the American War of Independence.

The Master gave a much-anticipated speech to a packed and enthusiastic audience of over 250 souls in the beautiful Trinity Church. This was followed with the first concert which was (in the opinion of the author) the best singing the Choir has ever given. The repertoire ranged from Renaissance polyphony to contemporary choral writing, which included Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, and the Choir received a standing ovation and demands for an encore.

Next stop: Darien, New York State, where we met William Wilson (1982), the other lynchpin of this trip. Another rehearsal, this time at St Luke's Church, alongside the church choir under the baton of their Director of Music, followed. The combined choirs got along extremely well and sang together beautifully, a couple of pronunciation issues notwithstanding!



Members of the Choir on North Bridge.

The morning service, at which the Choir sang Victoria's *Missa O Magnum Mysterium*, was extremely well-attended – and rather hot – but not a whisper was heard through the Master's sermon. The Choir was delighted to be invited to a barbecue and pool party at a nearby parishioner's house for some refreshment and cooling off, and despite the heat donned gowns for Evensong shortly after, joined by the St Luke's Parish Choir, to sing Dyson and Mendelssohn, with a second sermon from the Master.

A coach trip to Hyannis, Cape Cod, followed for a final rehearsal and performance at the house of Sidney Sussex alumnus and Cambridge in America Board member David Fyfe. A memorable concert ensued with the backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean behind us, singing Christmas music in 27-degree heat. We got our graduating

students back to Cambridge in time for the Macfarlane-Grieve Dinner and a hugely enjoyable and rewarding tour came to a close. We were particularly sad to say goodbye to Nick Widdows, our departing Chaplain, whose time with the Chapel community has been such a joy to the College, and whose presence on the tour was a huge benefit to us all, in organisational, pastoral, logistical and social ways.

Choir tours take a huge amount of organisation, time and money, and we are hugely grateful to many whose energy, determination and generosity made it happen. The tours offer memorable experiences, act as a magnet for future choir members and are a very public platform for the College's engagement with the wider world. Our students were polite, friendly, culturally engaged, musically superlative and we should be very proud of them.

FELLOWS' NEWS



PROFESSOR BILL CORNISH (1990), was delighted to be awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws

from his first university, the University of Adelaide in acknowledgement of his outstanding contribution to society and the law particularly through his leadership in the development of intellectual property law.



DR RONALD HYAM (1960), becomes Archivist Emeritus after no fewer than 55 years working to create and sustain the

College's libraries and archives. Being irreplaceable he is not being replaced but the College's libraries team will be joined instead by a part-time archivist.



DR GARETH PEARCE (2008), has recently been awarded the title of Honorary Associate Professor in the School of

Veterinary Science at the University of Queensland in recognition of his collaborative research with colleagues there in the areas of Animal Welfare Science and Marine Animal Science.

New Fellows



The new Chaplain, **THE REVEREND SARAH ATKINS (2002)**, returns to Magdalene having read

Theology here. The Chaplain serves the entire College, students, staff and Fellows, and offers a listening ear on any matter. She is looking forward to meeting Members of the wider Magdalene community at forthcoming alumni events and the annual Carol Concert in December.



PROFESSOR PAUL LANE (2018), is the inaugural Jennifer Ward Oppenheimer Professor of the Deep History

and Archaeology of Africa at the University of Cambridge and the Mandela Magdalene Memorial Fellow. Professor Lane was the Director of the British Institute in Eastern Africa, based in Nairobi, for eight years from 1998–2006, where he directed and coordinated the Historical Ecologies of East African Landscapes project at the University of York and has been the Professor of Global Archaeology at Uppsala University since 2013.



PROFESSOR CLAIRE CONNOLLY (2018), is the Parnell Visiting Fellow this year and Professor of Modern English

at the University College Cork. She was Co-Principal Investigator of the interdisciplinary research project Deep Maps: West Cork Coastal Cultures (Irish Research Council New Horizons Award) over the past three years.



PROFESSOR SHIXUAN XU (2018), is Yip (China) Visiting Fellow for the academic year 2018–19.

Professor Xu is Senior Researcher and Principal Expert on Innovation Project at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.



DR JOE JARRETT (2018), an alumnus of Christ's College, where he was also a Bye-Fellow and Supervisor in English,

joins us as a Junior Research Fellow (JRF). His research is in early modern literature and history, and in particular the intersections between mathematical and literary cultures in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.



DR ALASTAIR GREGORY (2010), an Engineer with interests in fluid mechanics, acoustics, and medicine is also

joining us as a JRF. He is working on understanding how various bodily sounds, such as wheezing and crackling, are produced, with the aim of improving the utility of these sounds in non-invasive diagnosis.

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS BOYLE (1964), celebrated 50 years as a Fellow at Magdalene. He writes: "The College – and the Wine Steward – most generously laid on a splendid lunch to which all my family were invited to mark the fiftieth anniversary of my Fellowship. It was a delightful occasion for all of us...I enjoyed having a captive audience to hear my reminiscences of my life in College both as a Junior Fellow and, before that, as an undergraduate. It was a particular pleasure to be able to express my gratitude to Fellows and staff who had been so large a part of my life."

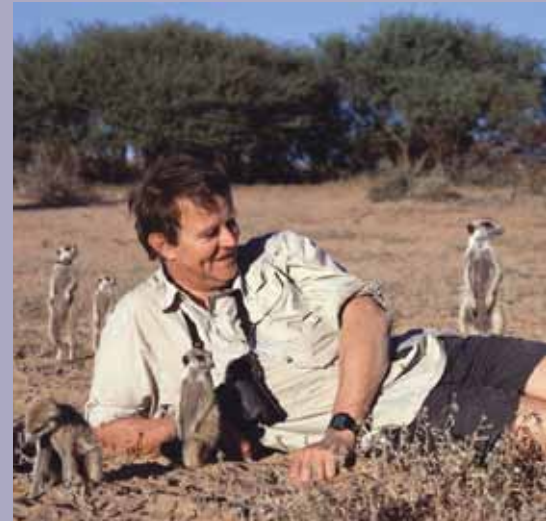


Meerkat Research – Professor Tim Clutton-Brock (1965)

In 2013, Tim Clutton-Brock transferred from being the Prince Philip Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology to a post as a Director of Research in the Department of Zoology. He continues his research on animal breeding systems, working principally in the southern Kalahari with meerkats and mole-rats. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and was recently awarded the Society's Darwin Medal. His research has been featured in multiple television programmes, including the prize-winning *Meerkat Manor* series.

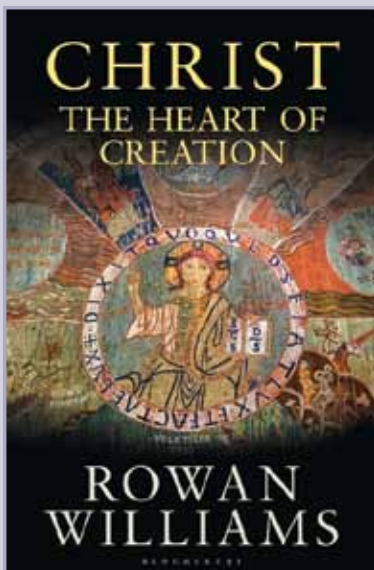
Most animals compete for resources and breeding opportunities and competition between members of the same species drives the process of evolution. But, in some species, many individuals do not breed themselves, instead spending part or all of their lives helping to rear offspring born to others. The causes and consequences of reproductive cooperation puzzled Darwin and continue to be a major focus of research. Breeding systems of

this kind are common among social insects – but also occur in some mammals, including meerkats and mole-rats which live in kin-based groups of 10–50. Our research on both species is based in the southern Kalahari where we have habituated multiple meerkat groups to close observation and monitor multiple groups of mole-rats. We have shown how kin-based groups of both species defend territories and kill intruders so that dispersing individuals have little chance of survival. While they remain in their natal groups, the breeding female prevents her daughters from reproducing by suppressing their sexual development and killing their offspring and, in this situation, a daughter's best chances of surviving to breed are to remain in her natal group (where she may inherit the breeding position after her mother's death) even if she is prevented from breeding while her mother lives. Only around 20% of females ever acquire breeding status at any stage of their



lifespan and sisters compete strongly to replace their mother. As a result, females are unusually aggressive and have unusually high testosterone levels – and, if they acquire dominant status, show a limited period of accelerated growth which helps them to dominate other group members. Supported by ERC funding, our current work on both species is exploring the hormonal and genetic mechanisms controlling cooperation, growth and ageing in both species.

Christ the Heart of Creation – Dr Rowan Williams



In this wide-ranging book, the Master, **DR ROWAN WILLIAMS**, argues that what we say about Jesus Christ is key to understanding what Christian belief says about creator and creation overall. Through detailed discussion of texts from the earliest centuries to the present day, we are shown some of the various and subtle ways in which Christians have discovered in their reflections on Christ the possibility of a deeply affirmative approach to creation, and a set of radical insights in ethics and politics as well.

Throughout his life, Dr Williams has been deeply influenced by thinkers of the Eastern Christian tradition as well as Catholic and Anglican writers. This book draws on insights from Eastern Christianity, from the Western Middle Ages and from Reformed thinkers, from Calvin to Bonhoeffer – as well as considering theological insights sparked by philosophers like Kierkegaard and Wittgenstein. *Christ the Heart of Creation* concerns fundamental issues for Christian belief and Williams tackles them head-on: he writes with pellucid clarity and shows his gift for putting across what are inevitably complex ideas to a wide audience.

YOUNG ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

DR ROBERT HOYE (2016) has been named a Young Engineer of the Year by the Royal Academy of Engineering. This is the Academy's most competitive prize and is given to five individuals who have had an outstanding impact in their fields at an early stage in their careers. Since October 2016, Dr Hoyer has been a Junior Research Fellow at the College, working on developing optoelectronic materials for clean energy conversion at scale. During his PhD (2012–2014), he developed a new reactor that prints semiconducting oxides two orders of magnitude faster than industry-standard methods but with the same quality. This work was awarded a prize for best thesis and has since attracted attention from companies. Afterwards,



Dr Robert Hoyer at the Worshipful Company of Engineers Dinner.

he was a postdoctoral researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2015–2016), working on developing bismuth-based compounds for photovoltaics that could tolerate defects, enabling them to achieve high performance when processed at low cost. These new ideas and materials

were recognised by the US Department of Energy and awarded a patent. His work has also led to grants awarded in the US and UK worth a total of £1.5m. To date, his publications have gained over 1,100 citations and, in 2017, five of his papers were ranked in the top 1% by Web of Science.

Dr Hoyer received his award at a ceremony held at the Tower of London this June. In attendance were HRH The Princess Royal and HRH the Duke of Kent, who met and congratulated the award-winners. The award was also presented by its sponsors, the Worshipful Company of Engineers, at their dinner at the Plasterers' Hall in London this June.

DR PHEBE MANN IS NAMED ONE OF THE TOP 50 WOMEN IN ENGINEERING 2018

DR PHEBE MANN (1994) is an Associate Professor in Highway and Transportation at the University of East London. Dr Mann was named as one of the winners of the Top 50 Women in Engineering Award 2018 (WE50). The award recognised Dr Mann's outstanding contribution as an engineer, innovative teacher and role model for women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

The WE50 campaign aims to raise awareness of the skills shortage facing the engineering industry, to change perceptions and encourage young women to consider engineering as a viable and rewarding career.



Dr Phebe Mann.

Dr Mann is a true pioneer and her accomplishments are significant; she is the first and only woman to hold six professional engineering qualifications concurrently in the UK. She is a

Chartered Civil Engineer CEng MICE, Chartered Surveyor FRICS, Chartered Construction Manager MCIOB, European Engineer Eur Ing, Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators FCI Arb, Fellow of the Royal Society of Art FRSA, Fellow of the Higher Education Academy FHEA, and the first female chair of the Chartered Institute of Building in Leicester.

As a STEM Ambassador, Talent2030 Hero and a Queen's Young Leader's mentor, Dr Mann provides support for women to pursue engineering careers; promoting engineering diversity she is frequently invited to speak at events to encourage young people to consider a future in engineering.

NUCLEAR POWERHOUSE

BY MR ADRIAN BULL (1980)

I never consciously decided to work in the nuclear industry. My late father worked as a nuclear design engineer in the sector from its very early years in the early 1950s, which is how I got involved.



Mr Adrian Bull with his MBE.

Through his contacts, I learned about the industry and somehow secured sponsorship from British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL) when I came up to Magdalene to read Engineering in 1980. It sounded like ‘free money’. As finals neared, I was offered a job interview by BNFL and willingly took the job they offered so I could concentrate on my studies, figuring I could always look for another employer after a few months. Some 35 years later, I’m still in the industry, although BNFL is no more.

In the same way I didn’t consciously enter the nuclear industry, I didn’t consciously decide to put engineering behind me. I began work in 1983 in a very technical role, using my engineering degree in what was then the emerging field of computer simulation. After a few years, I broadened out, getting involved in a wider range of science projects and found that the part of my job I liked the most was discussing and explaining the scientific work to people who were not themselves scientists – either within the company or outside. Gradually I took on more work which involved the communication of nuclear science, which in turn led to working on submissions to policy consultations on nuclear and energy matters – of which there were many in the early 2000s – and sometimes giving evidence to select committees and suchlike.

As the policy debate about nuclear continued, there was a demand for industry ‘experts’ to engage with all sorts of groups to explain the benefits of the industry and discuss the issues around nuclear waste, radiation, safety and the reactor accidents at Chernobyl and – more recently – Fukushima. I found myself increasingly invited to speak at events from school careers fairs to party conference debates, via trade union committees, local councils and the Women’s Institute (who were one of the best-informed and challenging groups I ever met). Many a Friday night was spent driving home from a meeting somewhere in the country following a lively debate on some aspect of the nuclear sector. (Incidentally, I think they’ve had that ‘free money’ back many times over...!)

After 23 years with BNFL, I left in 2006 to join Westinghouse, a nuclear fuel and reactor company, looking after UK stakeholder relations. Six years later, I joined the UK’s National Nuclear Laboratory as External Relations Director. More senior roles, involvement in various industry committees, as well as some industry-wide work on how best to engage with the public on complex scientific topics such as nuclear, gave me a certain level of visibility in Government and I think that must have led to my nomination for the MBE (for services to the development of public understanding in nuclear research), which came as a total surprise at the end of 2017. I’m not often speechless, but I was when I opened that particular envelope!

The day itself was very special and – thankfully – sunny. Having watched many royal events (and *The Crown* on TV!) it was so humbling to walk up the steps into Buckingham Palace and then through the various state rooms to the Ballroom and an anxious wait to be called out to collect the award from HRH The Princess Royal. She could not have been lovelier and, while the details of the conversation itself are a bit of a blur, she was knowledgeable and attentive throughout – and for everyone else enjoying their special day.

A friend of mine who has an OBE described receiving his honour as “a piece of typically British bonkers-ness”. He’s right – but we do that sort of thing so well, and it was a genuine privilege to be part of it.

Up close with the ONLY SURVIVING WONDER OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

BY PROFESSOR MICHAEL SCOTT (2003)

Our first day of filming in Cairo was unforgettable.

We had arrived late the night before on Egypt Air, had been driven through the crazy, incomprehensible late-night traffic of the city (where horn beeping is used for everything from lane changes to friendly hellos), to arrive at our hotel – to get to which we had to pass through a dog bomb sniff test, put our belongings through airport style security x-ray machines and walk through a body scanner. We collapsed exhausted into bed, ready for an early start.

The day began at 4am. No breakfast in the hotel was available so our support team (three vans' worth of equipment, location fixers and helpers)

had kindly brought some fruit and cake. In the darkness we headed for the Giza plateau: a limestone hunk of rock reaching up from the surrounding landscape to form a plateau that had once had the Nile river running alongside it (the Nile's path has slithered east and west across the landscape of Cairo over the millennia).

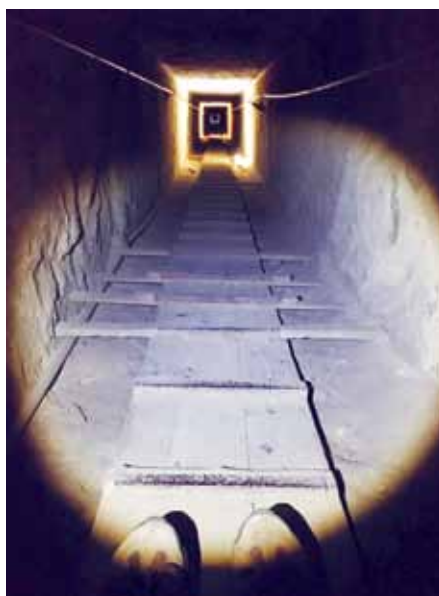
As the first light of dawn began to spread, the sun's rays began to glint off the sand of the desert, and silhouette some of the most famous landmarks in the world: the Pyramids of Giza. We had organised that morning to have special early access to film in and around the Great Pyramid of Giza –

built in the Fourth Pharaonic Dynasty of ancient Egypt, around 2560 BCE, for the Pharaoh Khufu. For centuries it was the tallest man-made structure in the world. Over two million individual giant blocks, some weighing more than a tonne, make up the Pyramid and it was once covered in a shiny limestone casing that would have made it sparkle for miles around.

It was freezing cold, with a high wind, as we started filming outside the Great Pyramid at 4.50am that morning. My initial reaction in approaching it was one of shock. We are so used to seeing images of the pyramids that in some ways, we become immune



Grand Gallery.



Passage to subterranean chamber.



3D Pyramid chamber scan.

Photography by Professor Michael Scott



Cairo – Ancient Invisible Cities.

Photograph by Professor Michael Scott

to it as a man-made wonder. But standing in front of it, the sheer size and overwhelming power and majesty of it sweeps that feeling of déjà vu away in an instant and you are left stunned at the scale and brilliance of its existence. It feels like a man-made mountain – a veritable work of super-natural beings rather than of humankind.

At 5.15am we were heading inside through the Robbers' Tunnel, dug in centuries past to try and exploit the prize possessions that were once sealed in with the dead Pharaoh. The opulent size and scale of the Pyramid gave way to an ever-decreasing opportunity for movement as you twist and turn through this tunnel, losing all sense of where you are within the structure. An eerie silence follows you. You emerge into the grand gallery, stretching upwards at close to a 50-degree angle. It is a vaulted passageway stretching nine metres in height, composed of blocks so carefully carved and placed that you cannot slip a knife between their edges. You climb, knowing that you are reaching ever deeper into the Pyramid, and once again you are confronted by a tiny tunnel that you are forced to bend double to get through. And on the other side, you

find yourself in a square chamber composed of massive red granite blocks brought in antiquity all the way up the Nile from Aswan. This was the King's Chamber, and all that remains in it now is an empty sarcophagus. You are – we found out later when we completed our 3D laser scanning of the Pyramid – at the centre of the whole structure, in a small chamber surrounded on all sides by the crushing weight of stone. Five false ceilings above the King's Chamber help to defray the weight of the structure above and keep the King's Chamber from collapsing in.

We stood there at about 6.30am in the morning, the silence now screaming in our ears, imagining this as the final resting place of the Pharaoh, a chamber that had once had a large granite door bolted across its tiny entrance tunnel, and been contained within a building sealed by gigantic blocks and a limestone covering from the outside world. This was a space, I thought, that the ancient Egyptians never wanted people to find.

But come the opening of the site to the public at 7am, we were soon swept up in a continual tide of people

emerging huffing and puffing from the climb into the chamber. It was both marvellous to see so many people who had made the journey to see this monument to the greatness of our ancient past, and dispiriting to see such a solemn place become such a conveyor belt. We headed off back to the Grand Gallery, to explore a different tunnel hidden behind heavy gates, an ancient tunnel heading down deep into the bowels of the Pyramid, always off limits to tourists because of the dangers of accessing it. An hour later, I was standing in a chamber hidden deep within the bedrock underneath the Great Pyramid itself, all 5.9 million tonnes of Pyramid and whatever the weight of the bedrock was above my head. Here there were no lights bar our flashlights. Consumed by the darkness, it felt like time really had stood still down here for the last 4,500 years since the ancients had hacked this chamber out of the rock. And as we stood there, we tried to figure out what this chamber was for. But this is a mystery that the ancient Egyptians will, I think, successfully manage to keep hidden from us for eternity.

DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY

BY MR CHARLES BRASTED (1998)

Disruption is an awkward word. Almost onomatopoeic in its spluttering syllables, it speaks of interruption and dislocation.

And yet it has, for good or ill, become synonymous in some circles with pro-consumer innovation. It has been the by-word for explosions of creativity that have revolutionised how people live, work, travel and play.

Those explosions of creativity, spluttering like a primitive internal combustion engine across our lives, pose a challenge. It is the challenge of how to harness what is good, while identifying and addressing risks. And how to do that when change happens exponentially and at unprecedented speed.

It is undoubtedly a challenge for innovators themselves: how do you turn an idea into a sustainable, resilient, well-governed business? I know from my own experience of trying to become a dot-com millionaire while an undergraduate at Magdalene that a good idea, some excellent computer code and a smart logo do not of themselves make for commercial success. But when you do hit commercial success, then the challenge of maturing as fast as you are growing is profound. Mastering complex regulatory regimes in multiple markets while continuing to deliver high growth and incentivise bold ideas.

It is also a challenge for law-makers, for regulators – and, indeed, for our approach to law and regulation. It is in this nexus between innovation and regulation that I spend much of my professional time, and I want in this short piece to pose a few questions about how we can make regulation and innovation work together.

First, however, let me challenge the – linguistic – presumption that disruption is bad. Creative disruption is not new. It is not the latest export from California. It is a driving force behind progress. While we succeed in delivering incremental improvements by iteration, progress has often come in what appears to be startling leaps forward. Or at least they appear to be startling leaps from one perspective or another. And what may be a smooth progress when viewed in the grand sweep of history will have felt, and been, painful, disconcerting, disruptive for individuals, communities, industries and institutions. Sometimes, moreover, those are industries and institutions that need to be disrupted. The forest fire that is essential to the rebirth of the ecosystem. The

competitive challenge that is needed to readjust a moribund market in favour of the consumer.

But this is no glib assertion that the omelette justifies the broken eggs. There can be no presumption that social and consumer protections do not apply. Indeed, the precautionary principles that underpin our consumer protection laws are required more than ever where ideas are untested and implications not fully known.

So, the challenge is to make regulation work in tandem with innovation.

This is not impossible. Regulation is not by definition the enemy of innovation. Indeed, it can be a catalyst for it. In the financial services sector, where the Big Bang sparked the growth to predominance of the City of London in the 1980s, so the UK's relative openness to innovation and its "regulatory sandbox" has helped the UK to lead the field in fintech in recent years.

However, there are a number of hurdles to overcome.

Law-making is by its nature often slow, iterative and cautious. While Parliament can make great leaps forward (or backward) in a specific area by passing new primary legislation, there is very limited capacity for new Bills to get through the legislative process. This means that sectoral regulatory frameworks change relatively infrequently, and only where a political head of steam for change has gathered. Some sectors in which we now see enormous innovation and rapidly changing consumer behaviour remain subject to detailed regulatory regimes that have their origins in decades-old legislation, reflecting the understanding and choices of a different era, in which the technology now in play was not even conceivable. For example, traditional regulatory models are often predicated on the assumption that geographical location is central to how services are provided and consumed – where now a consumer from Japan may use a service in the UK that is reliant on data and software held and run in the US. Similarly, they may assume relatively simple bilateral relationships where now it is possible for a complex supply chain to lie behind a seemingly simple service or product.

This leaves regulators and innovative businesses struggling to apply 19th or 20th century concepts and terminology to 21st century technology, business models and consumer behaviour. At best, that creates uncertainty, regulatory friction and increased probability of having to turn to the courts to interpret and apply these difficult provisions – all of which is inefficient. At worst, it leads to perverse outcomes and regulatory deadlock.

One way of mitigating that almost-metabolic disparity is to put in place regulatory regimes that are more flexible, and more principles-based rather than rules-based. These focus more on establishing required outcomes, for example about how consumers are treated, than setting in legislation prescriptive rules about the way in which a regulated business operates. This places a greater onus on the regulator and on the business itself to establish, maintain and review good governance standards. It is an approach that works best where there is a high degree of effective engagement between businesses and regulators, and that requires both sides to have the capacity, skills and experience to communicate and implement effectively. That is not just a matter of quality but also of equality: it needs businesses to employ people who understand the nature of regulation, and regulators to have access to a genuine understanding of fast-moving technologies and business models. That is a resourcing and cultural challenge for both sides. Where one gets it right, it can deliver mature, constructive regulatory relationships that support innovation while providing appropriate oversight.

The other aspect of disruptive businesses that puts regulatory models to the test is the much greater complexity of relationships and roles. One of the recurrent themes in successful disruption is the putting to use of resources that were otherwise under-used, and that often means that the bright line between consumer and business becomes blurred, as consumers put their free assets and free time to use and, in doing so, make new relationships with other consumers that defy traditional

categorisation and approaches to consumer protection. This can leave content creation and service delivery in the hands of individuals, while consumers perceive that they are buying from a bigger brand. That raises new questions about who should take on regulatory responsibility and exactly what they should be responsible for. Those are questions that regulatory flexibility cannot answer – there are substantive questions of policy that require a political conclusion, and it remains to be seen how politics will grapple with those questions.

What does that leave businesses and their lawyers to do? Although my background is in litigation, the focus of my work is on helping businesses to understand and engage actively with their regulatory environment. To regard it not as an obstruction or inconvenience but as part of a dialogue in which they can actively participate, and that they can shape. The UK has proved itself capable of building successful, forward-looking regulatory environments that encourage business to come here to innovate and grow. It is incumbent on businesses and their advisors to show that there is a future for responsible disruption at the heart of the UK economy.



CHARLES BRASTED (1998), is a constitutional and administrative lawyer who works at the intersection between business, law and policy. He leads the public and policy team at international

law firm, Hogan Lovells. His clients include a number of well-known technology businesses. He recently led the case on behalf of Uber to secure a new license to continue operating in London after Transport for London, the regulator, refused to renew Uber's existing operating licence.



New Choir CD: The performance experience the Choir developed on its recent USA Tour (page 3) will feed into its new Christmas CD. Featuring much of the tour repertoire and due to be released in time for this Christmas the album centers around Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* for three-part chorus, solo voices and harp, but will also feature much-loved carols including Darke's *In the Bleak Midwinter*.

From Magdalene to the Indus Civilisation:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN INDIA

BY MR ALESSANDRO CECCARELLI (2016)

For my PhD research, under the supervision of Dr Cameron Petrie, Prof Charly French and Dr Patrick Quinn, I am working on producers, crafts and technologies of the Indus Civilisation (2500–1900 BC) in northwest India.

Simply put, I spend a lot of time looking at fragments of ancient pottery. I use a range of technological and compositional techniques to study ancient ceramic industries, including various analytical procedures. I analyse ceramic powders and thin-sections taken from pottery sherds to investigate sources of materials used for manufacturing ceramic vessels; this also allows reconstruction of how the vessels were produced. Combining multiple analytical methods with traditional visual observations of the ancient pottery, I am investigating ceramic traditions to understand aspects of Indus communities and their behaviour.

Even though my research focuses mainly on the transition from the Indus Urban (or Mature Harappan, c. 2500–1900 BC) to the Post-Urban (or Late Harappan, c. 1900–1400 BC) period, the material that I look at is found in many different contexts, ranging from the so-called Pre-Urban (or Early Harappan) to the Post-Indus period.

The first part of my job actually begins in the field, more specifically in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, India. From excavations at Indus sites to the study of archives of archaeological material within India, I've had the opportunity to spend the past year working in India alongside a team of researchers jointly from both Cambridge and Indian universities.

Varanasi

One of the Indian cities where I spent the most time was Varanasi. Varanasi is like a vision of India rising out of your most fervid imagination. One of the most ancient living cities in South Asia and located on the shores of the Ganges, it is home to thousands of temples, which rise like spiritual

bastions emerging from the daily pandemonium of crowded streets. Children, merchants, rickshaws, monkeys, cows and water buffalos are everywhere; locals and pilgrims offer flowers and floating candles to the river-goddess Ganga, while fire rituals take place all around. This is the richness of Varanasi.

Besides being a major centre of research, owing to its spiritual and religious magnetism, people from all over Asia have visited Varanasi for over two millennia. For Hindu devotees, this is a place for the living, for knowledge and prayers, but also a place for death. The famous burning ghats (riverfront steps leading to the banks of the Ganges) host funerary pyres, which are often seen as the physical threshold to the afterlife and salvation. However, Varanasi is not just one of the holiest cities in Hinduism (Kāśī, City of Light); it is also strongly connected to the development of Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, and Islam in India. Influential individuals belonging to several sects are believed to have sat on these riverbanks, including the Buddha (Buddhism), Suparshvanatha (Jainism), Kabir, Ravidas, Tulsidas and Meera Bai (Sant Mat, Kabir panth, Bhakti and Sufi movements), Adi Shankaracharya (Advaita Vedanta), Guru Nanak (Sikhism), Anandamayi Ma and Lahiri Mahasaya (modern Yoga). These are just a few examples of the inter-cultural and inter-religious ancestries of this unique city, but most noticeable is how these diverse spiritual landscapes harmoniously interlock and overlap. In the words of Vivekananda (1893), Varanasi is an example of how India can teach “the world both tolerance and universal acceptance”. I had previously lived in South Asia for a few years, but it still felt like a privilege to be exposed to such a rich melting pot of ancient traditions.

Speaking of which, pots and ancient traditions were part of my research in Varanasi. I spent most of my time in the laboratories of the Department of Ancient Indian History Culture (AIHC) and Archaeology at Banaras Hindu University (BHU). Before departing to India, I assembled a portable laboratory for sampling ceramics (see the TwoRains blog linked below). In Varanasi, I finally had the chance to test the laboratory in the field, and it worked perfectly.

While I was there, I analysed and documented pottery sherds from Indus sites in present-day Haryana and Uttar Pradesh with a team from the AIHC University, produced thin-sections for petrographic analysis, and collected powdered ceramic samples for geochemical analysis, as well as producing new illustrations of the pottery. Each morning, bags of ancient pottery waited on the table ready to be studied. Each sherd of pottery tells us about the skills and technologies of the Indus potters, information about its maker(s) and the village(s) where it was crafted. They are not just fired pieces of clay, but the physical manifestation of the intimate relationship between society, makers and materials.

Ethno-Archaeology

I also had the chance to leave the laboratory and visit modern communities of traditional potters who live in small villages in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, northwest India.

My ethnographic, or ethno-technological, research is helping me think about archaeological questions and problems related to issues of rural ceramic production and regional networks of potters. There are many aspects of ancient ceramic industries in South Asia that can benefit from research on modern traditional potters, for instance the interaction with landscapes and changing environments, the transmission of knowledge within families through generations, the network of crafters connected via marriages within India's caste system, the seasonal production of ceramic artefacts, social identities and the roles of women and men in the production of vessels, and a comparison between archaeological and modern rural tools and technologies.

It took me a while to understand the complex interaction among groups and subgroups of Kumhars, who are the traditional potters of Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Nonetheless, I was lucky to meet friendly families of potters and learn from them while drinking a lot of chai tea.

Nowadays, the village-based manufacture of pottery is slowly disappearing, due to lack of demand and modern systems of mass-production. However, new generations of Kumhars maintain the long-lasting traditional craft of specific types of vessels that seem to be particularly close to the hearts of local families. In fact, they still produce vessels used during Hindu



Decorations and paintings on modern vessels in northwest India.

festivals and rituals (eg Diwali, the festival of lights, or weddings) typical ceramic water jars (*matka*) and drinking cups.

Talking to these potters allowed me to understand aspects of the production and distribution of vessels, from clay sourcing to firing and commercial transfer of final products. Amongst the problems that archaeologists, and especially ceramic specialists, face when researching ancient artefacts is the study of forming techniques or manufacturing processes. Observation for this ethnographic work helped me to fill some of the gaps in my general understanding of pottery making in India, but, most importantly, it also helped to look at the landscape, adaptation to seasonal climate variability and rural family traditions with different eyes – the eyes of long-lasting lineages (*parampara*) of crafters.

Besides the obvious anthropological and archaeological implications of this work, it was rather fun and inspiring to visit those villages and families. Potters from Khanak, Lohari Ragho, Rakhigarhi and Alamgripur were very happy to share their experiences and stories of their ancestors with the public, which is a vital source of vernacular knowledge that would be otherwise inaccessible. These traditions are an important part of the intangible cultural heritage of South Asia.

If you would like to find out more about my research please visit the TwoRains blog at www.tworains.wordpress.com.



ALESSANDRO CECCARELLI (2016), is a Magdalene PhD candidate and archaeologist and ancient ceramics specialist for the ERC TwoRains project at the Department of Archaeology.

EXCITING TIMES

BY MISS LEAF ARBUTHNOT (2010)

I left Magdalene in 2014 having read French and Italian under the brilliant care of Dr Hugues Azérad and Ms Silke Mentchen.

Now I write and edit features at the Sunday Times and review poetry for the Times Literary Supplement. I'm writing my first book, a novel called *Looking For Eliza*, which is to be published by Orion in spring 2020 – they took on the book, somewhat rashly I fear, off the back of the first few chapters and a synopsis. Now I'm bashing out the remaining 80,000 words before and after my day job at the Sunday Times.

Three years into my career as a not-so-ruthless hack, I'm struck by the fact that a lot of the skills I rely on today were acquired or honed at Cambridge. Studying MML meant that I had to learn to read fast, make links (or ungainly leaps) between ideas, overcome the fear of the blank page in order to cough up the required essays. Those skills are vital if you want to interview people properly for the purposes of writing an article about them, whether it's Prince Charles, whom I met in a muddy field in 2017, or Hilary Mantel, whom I spoke to at home in Budleigh Salterton. I'd read a few of Mantel's books before but had to race through the rest in about 24 hours, having been told by my editor that the interview was on. In Prince Charles' case, I suddenly had to become a Windsor fanatic. If you don't know your interview subject well, there's a strong possibility they'll detect that and their ego will be bruised so they won't open up to you

– moreover, you won't know which questions to ask, which soft spots to probe, what makes them happy, and so on. All very important things in getting the measure of someone.

Doing profile interviews requires a certain chameleon-like quality that linguists, I think, have in spades. You ribbon between registers. If I'm interviewing an elderly man about his time during the war, I'm going to be a very different person to the woman I put forth when I'm interviewing young people about the drill scene in Peckham. To an extent we all do this all the time; to be human is to hopscotch between different identities – I once saw a very posh friend of mine call a cabbie “mate”, dropping the “t” because he sensed it was appropriate – but I am hyperaware when I'm working, of having to do it, and of there being consequences of me not mastering those subtle pivots (ie, the interview not going well, my interviewee and me not quite “clicking”).

At Cambridge I was never one for the late-night essay crisis. I was too conscientious, too boring. Now I recognise that being good at spurting out an essay at top speed serves journalists well. In 2016 we bagged the big exclusive interview with Candice Brown after she won the Great British Bake Off – the conversation started at 6pm on Thursday and I had until noon the next day to turn that into 2,500



Miss Leaf Arbuthnot.

words of a profile. I spent hours after we spoke typing out the transcript, smashed out as much of the piece as I could, went to bed then returned to my desk at seven the next day. There was no time to feel nervous, it had to be done. Thankfully in features the consequences are never as dire as they are in other areas of journalism – you're not being bombed on as you file your story and there's rarely a risk you'll be scooped.

I began writing poetry reviews for the Times Literary Supplement a few months before I started at the Sunday Times, after I'd finished at Yale (where I'd spent a year on the Henry Fellowship). I've always loved poetry and basically wanted free books. I'd done a bit of poetry stuff as an MML student but not that much, though I loved the brimstone of Dante. I do as many reviews as I can around my job at the Sunday Times. It's worth it: reviewing a collection forces you clarify your thoughts about it more than if you were reading it for pleasure. You have to investigate your hunch about why something works or doesn't work, turn that hunch into an actual

articulated position. That is good exercise for the brain and rewarding long-term; poems you have properly thought through have a way of lingering longer in the memory.

Being a judge in last year's Michael Marks Awards for Poetry Pamphlets was one of the best things I've ever done – I had to read over 200 pamphlets, many of which were moving, funny, shocking – and then work out which collections were the most interesting. Talking about the poetry with my fellow two judges was a joy, both because their judgements were so sharp and because for me, poetry, like music, has always been rather a personal thing. It was a new experience, and deeply rewarding, to hear what my two intelligent and much more experienced fellow judges thought of material we had all read. In case you're after recommendations, amongst the best collections I've reviewed in recent years are *Beauty/Beauty* by Rebecca Perry, Alice Oswald's *Falling Awake*, and *Nuclear Family* by Mel Pryor.

MML at Magdalene was also a good training ground for my burgeoning work as a novelist. I did a good deal of 19th century French writing, and remember being struck by their attention to structure. When I began my book I didn't pay nearly enough attention to its shape – I thought, arrogantly, that the right structure would impose itself as I wrote. That never happened; the writing ground to a halt and I realised I'd done the writerly equivalent of trying to build a big and impressive house without bothering to erect a scaffold. Many good novels have a secret solid skeleton under their flesh; things happen intentionally, people change intentionally, there is a music to it all – think of the pyramid structure of *L'Assommoir*. My book needed a scaffold if it was to become anything more than a mud hut. So I started planning chapters.

The book is set in Oxford. There are two main characters: a widow called Ada, whose late husband was a Primo

Levi academic, and, living opposite her, a PhD student called Eliza. They are both isolated but for wildly different reasons; Ada is learning to be alone again and Eliza is struggling to connect to her academic work, to see the point in her research, and to form meaningful connections with other young people equally mired in the Instagram era. Eventually Ada decides to launch a start up, 'Rent-a-Gran', hiring herself out as a grandmother, as a way of making money and friends. The business goes well, then not so well.

The two women connect across the street, and the book charts that friendship. I wanted to write about loneliness as a phenomenon that cuts across the generations, and to show how the experience of it can forge connection rather than break it down. But god, writing novels is hard! My respect for all my old Cambridge professors who trotted off a book every few years, whilst finding the time to supervise students still hungover from Cindies, has reached all time highs.

Magdalene College Gin

The College has specially commissioned a single-batch copper-still London-made artisan gin from our neighbours on Quayside, Cambridge Wine Merchants.

A lot of research (and tasting!) went into choosing the distiller. Meanwhile, our unique blend of botanicals, produced from the highest-quality, all-natural ingredients, was selected by experts with decades of experience.

Distilled to a secret recipe using juniper, coriander, angelica, cassia bark, bitter orange peel, and just a touch of liquorice root, our gin has a flavour profile that is perfect for all occasions. Juniper and coriander are of course included, while angelica root



Magdalene College Gin, 70cl, 42% abv: £35.00.

gives a vermouth-like earthy bitterness. Cassia bark, while typically known for its cinnamon flavour, is more subtle when distilled, providing a spicy, exotic background. Bitter orange peel brings a muscular citrus note, much deeper than the fresh sweet orange or lemon peel used in many other gins. Finally,

liquorice root offers a broad, warm bass-note and subtle anise/menthol lift to the final product.

In combination, the selected botanicals produce a deep, intensely aromatic gin with many layers of complexity and a rich texture. Magdalene College Gin is beautifully presented in a heavy French glass bottle with a Vinilok glass stopper to seal in the freshness.

Magdalene College Gin is ideal for a traditional, simple G&T, or combined into your favourite cocktail. If you can bring yourself to part with a bottle, it would also make the perfect Christmas gift! Cheers!

Available at: www.magd.cam.ac.uk/gin

Forthcoming EVENTS

24 NOVEMBER 2018

Law Dinner – 50 years of the
Magdalene Law Society

3 DECEMBER 2018

Annual Carol Concert at All Saints
Margaret Street, London

19 JANUARY 2018

Medical Society Dinner

30 JANUARY 2019

Magdalene in the City

16 FEBRUARY 2019

Natural Sciences Dinner

6 APRIL 2019

Rugby Club Dinner

18 MAY 2019

MA Day for 2012 Matriculands

1 JUNE 2019

Buckingham Society Luncheon

3 JULY 2019

Magdalene in the City

2 SEPTEMBER 2019

Kuala Lumpur Dinner

3 SEPTEMBER 2019

Singapore Dinner

7 SEPTEMBER 2019

Sydney Dinner

11 SEPTEMBER 2019

Hong Kong Dinner

Additional events may be added; please check
www.magd.cam.ac.uk/events and look out for
updated listings in Magdalene eMatters. Please
email events@magd.cam.ac.uk to register your
interest in any of the above events.



MAGDALENE CHOIR CAROL CONCERT

We are pleased to invite Members and their guests to join us at the Magdalene Choir Christmas Carol Concert on Monday 3 December 2018 at All Saints Margaret Street, London.

The doors open at 6.30pm and the Concert will begin at 7.00pm. Following the Concert we would be delighted if attendees would join us for mulled wine and mince pies to celebrate the beginning of the festive season.

Non-Resident Members' Guest Nights 2019

26 January 2019*

9 March 2019*

27 April 2019*

25 May 2019*

19 October 2019*

15 November 2019

*fully booked

These evenings are hosted by a group of Fellows and include pre-dinner drinks. They offer Members the opportunity of bringing one guest to dine at High Table. Please note that numbers of NRMs are limited to a maximum of ten at any one night. Please book via the Alumni & Development office.

REUNIONS

Reunions in 2019

FRIDAY 12 APRIL

Dinner for those who
matriculated in 2001–2003

SATURDAY 4 MAY

Lunch for those who
matriculated up to 1959

FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

Dinner for those who
matriculated in 2004–2006

FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

Dinner for those who
matriculated in 2007–2009

Reunion invitations will be sent out three months in advance. The programme usually begins at 4.30pm with tea and coffee in the Senior Combination Room. Pre-dinner drinks will be served in the Cripps Gallery or Pepys' Cloisters at 7.15pm, with dinner being served in Hall from 8pm. There will be an opportunity to visit the Pepys Library before dinner and to attend Evensong in Chapel.

