It seems incredible that it is time to report again to our Life Members, Alumni and Friends around the world. In one sense, little has changed. Graduate students of energy and talent mingle with distinguished Visiting Fellows from an ever more diverse range of institutions, while the permanent Fellowship continues to maintain its extraordinarily impressive academic record, at the same time in many cases giving significant support to the wide range of cultural and intellectual activities which Clare Hall regularly hosts.

I would like to pay particular tribute to the Vice President, Dr Robert Anderson, whose commitment to the college is seemingly boundless and on whom we have all come to rely more and more.

But in another sense, the college knows that it is at the start of a period of several years in which it needs to revisit its original mission, to see to what extent this remains valid for Clare Hall's second half-century, and whether and if so how it should be modified. 2016 is after all the college's 50th Anniversary, and we would all be failing in our trusteeship role if we did not use the next three years to do all we can to take the college forward into its next phase. To this end, and as a prelude to what we hope will in due course be a major fund-raising campaign, the Governing Body six months ago asked a group of Fellows chaired by the Vice President to take a root and branch look at the college's strategy and where it hopes to be five and ten years from now.

The debate which this has generated, among both our Fellows and our graduate students, is only part way through – we plan to end up with an agreed Strategic Plan in October – but already two things seem clear. Firstly, the three pillars which underpin Clare Hall, namely the Fellowship (including of course our substantial body of Research Fellows), the graduate student body and our unique body of Visiting Fellows, are all seen as integral to what makes us what we are, and as critical to our contribution both to Cambridge and to scholarship. While some growth may be
desirable or even essential, the balance between these three groups is seen as fundamentally sound. Secondly, any significant initiative, even if it is ‘more of the same’ in the best sense of that phrase, is only sensible, perhaps only possible, in the context of a significant investment in our accommodation and our facilities.

Already, one wheel has turned full circle. The Governing Body is clear that without a substantial injection of capital to our endowment, no major innovations or improvements will be possible. But it is also clear that a ‘50th Anniversary Appeal’ between now and 2016 has little chance of succeeding without a clear vision to excite both our existing friends and potential new donors and supporters. Hence the urgency of the Strategic Review, as an essential pre-requisite to the next stage in our plans for the future. By the time I write to you in a year’s time, the Strategy will be in place and many of the preliminary steps for our ‘Golden Jubilee’ should be clearly outlined. We are in the process of establishing a US Committee to help us, which Life Member Lee Bollinger, President of Columbia University, has very kindly agreed to chair, and for which Robert Duvall has, rather heroically, agreed to take day-to-day responsibility. We are most grateful to them and to all our US Life Members who have offered suggestions and advice. Watch this space!

One thing that we are now urgently engaged in with all this in mind is the search for a new Director of Development, to lead this aspect of the college’s life over the next few years.

Nami Morris, who has served us so well for six years and whose relentless energy and enthusiasm are already sorely missed, has moved on to a more senior role in Pembroke, where we all wish her well. She will not be easy to replace, but replace her we must. As I write, the quest continues, and it may now be several months before we can make a permanent appointment. In the meantime, we welcome our interim Director, Katy Astley, to lead the development team. Thanks to Marie Lemaire and Georgie Plunkett for their hard work in keeping things afloat over the summer.

And of course we are losing too someone who has for nearly twelve years been even more central to the life of the college, our Senior Tutor, Dr Bobbie Wells. Generations of students have benefitted from her outstanding leadership of the tutorial team and her wise advice and generous support. There is a fuller tribute elsewhere in the Review, but I would like to say here how much I have appreciated Bobbie’s perceptiveness and her wisdom ever since Barbara and I arrived four years ago. She too will be sorely missed. We welcome Dr Iain Black, joining us from Sidney Sussex College, in her stead.

There is someone else to whom I wish to pay tribute: Bob Ackerman. For ten years, Bob has hosted the (ever more popular) ASH series of lectures on a Tuesday evening, providing opportunities for local scholars to share in the work of our visitors, in turn giving them a chance to present their latest thinking in a challenging but friendly environment. Bob has now decided to pass on the baton to Adrian Du Plessis, and I would like to take this opportunity to pay the warmest of tributes to Bob for his work with ASH and for supporting the college in so many other ways. His recent election as a Fellow Commoner was richly deserved.

Finally, I’d like to pay tribute to the extraordinary energy and commitment of our Graduate Student Body this year. Ably led by Nicola Clay and David Weiss, they have been passionate in creating opportunities for their fellow students, and, in the capable hands of Evianne Van Gijn, in encouraging and organising intellectual and cultural activities shared with the Fellows and other members of college. A truly exceptional year group, which I shall remember fondly.

It would be quite inappropriate to end without thanking most warmly all the college staff who make life so much better than it would otherwise be for all of us who live, eat, work or enjoy art or music in Clare Hall. The combined efforts of so many people make Clare Hall the fascinating place it is for us all, and Barbara and I speak for everyone when I say how deeply grateful we are.

**Martin Harris**
These are turbulent times for higher education in the UK, but reports of its decline and fall are, to say the least, premature. As you read through this edition of *The Review*, you will see that our community is as vibrant as ever. A college like Clare Hall, with its open and egalitarian ethos, is well placed for the future, and we look forward towards a bright future as it approaches its fiftieth anniversary in 2016.

A year ago I was writing this equivalent article having recently arrived as the new Bursar, looking forward to the challenges that lay ahead while keeping an eye on the past and the traditions I had inherited. In particular I have found it invaluable to have Richard Eden’s excellent 40 year chronicle of the college to hand in shedding light on current issues. During the last 2 years I have gained a better grasp of what the issues are and where some of the solutions might lie. Some things take longer to address than others; and some require wide consultation before arriving at a way forward. But the key thing is that progress is made year-on-year in many areas of the college’s management. The challenge lies not only in identifying opportunities, but also in prioritising the time and resources to address them. These ‘resources’ are both human and financial, and much of a Bursar’s time is spent in managing people and money.

**STAFF**

It is the people that make a college. The students, the Fellows, the staff. There is turnover in each category every year, yet the institution continues, and develops. We lose half our students every year, with the annual exodus of entire cohorts of MPhil and other one-year Master’s students being balanced by the slower ‘churn’ of PhD students. We lose, and gain, five or more Junior Research Fellows each year, in addition to those Fellows departing from the Governing Body, either to become Emeritus or to leave Cambridge for other pastures. And so it is with the staff. With 32 staff, it is inevitable that we will lose, and replace, a few each year.

One of the challenges I recognised early in my first year was to make sure that the staff size and structure met the needs of what has become a larger college. After the building programme of the past decade it was apparent that in some areas of the college’s operations the staff numbers and roles needed to catch up. The first stage was to clarify reporting lines and organisational structure followed by working out where the possible gaps were. The workload of the college grows each year, and there was a clear need to provide greater support for the College Accountant, Martin Aldridge, and the College Secretary, Liz Ramsden; thus we now have a second Accounts Assistant, Ruth Hefford, and Assistant Secretary, Amanda Barclay, joining the staff.

The college was saddened by the death during the year of Rosella Wilson, our Alumni and Events Officer. The Bursar and several other Clare Hall members represented the college at Rosella’s funeral. We were very moved by the tributes paid to Rosella by our Life Members.

**THE BUILDINGS**

Following the extensive building programme, culminating in the construction of the Salje Building in 2010, the college has concentrated on ensuring that our buildings are maintained to a very high standard. Our Estates Manager, Tim Cottage, is following his 5-year rolling programme of maintenance which is proving to be extremely cost-effective in the long run. We will need to upgrade the boiler and heating systems in Gillian Beer House and in the swimming pool during the next financial year; the annual transfer to the Buildings Fund will go some way to mitigating the cost. The Domestic Bursar, Cherie Evans, and her housekeeping staff continue to ensure that our property is fully let and maintained to their customary high standard.
FINANCES

It costs over £2.5 million each year to run Clare Hall and you can read in detail about our financial performance on our website at www.clarehall.cam.ac.uk. As a result of our decision two years ago to invest our endowment in the Cambridge University Endowment Fund, the college now receives a steady stream of income from our endowment, over £45k per month or £550k in the year. This income is used in the current financial year, and allows us to achieve the intergenerational equity that is so important when managing an endowment. It should also prove to any potential major donor that a gift to the endowment can produce both a permanent benefit in perpetuity and also an immediate impact through increasing the regular income derived from the endowment.

Clare Hall continues to receive funds from the University’s Colleges Fund, receiving £239k. This exceeds the calculated draw-down amount, and there is therefore no need to withdraw cash from the endowment. This allows the asset allocation for the endowment to focus on capital growth rather than on income, with very little need for liquidity, and this provides greater flexibility in asset choices when making decisions with a time horizon of over twenty years, as is appropriate for an institution such as a Cambridge college. Such long-term horizons provide a little comfort when confronted with plunges in the world’s stock markets and the resulting paper losses.

While the endowment remains small, annual income of 4.4% from the endowment can only contribute so much and I want increasingly to focus endowment income on regular student support, such as studentships and bursaries. Much of the college’s fund-raising activity in the past has been either for large sums to fund capital projects or for increasing the endowment. The need for capital funds is less pressing but increasing the endowment remains a major priority. However, the effect of a gift to the endowment makes a small difference immediately, while of course having a long-term effect as well, especially when combined and invested alongside other gifts. Some donors, however, want their gifts to have a more immediate impact, hence the launch of the Annual Fund, the success of which will have an impact on the pace of improvement in the college, both in terms of maintaining the existing fabric and also in the introduction of new facilities.

LOOKING AHEAD

To sum up, the restructuring and strengthening of the staff, the attention to the physical estate of the college, and the careful custody and management of the finances together allow Clare Hall to plan ahead with confidence. If you are reading this from afar and have not visited your college for some time, do come back and experience this confidence for yourself.

Moira Gardiner
When I recently asked Bobbie why she had decided to come to Clare Hall she answered without hesitation — the excellent food and egalitarian nature of the college with respect to graduate students. This egalitarian aspect is integral to student-fellow interaction and promotes academic intercourse across a wide range of disciplines. Indeed it is something the college prides itself on, not least in the dining hall where there is no high table and intellectual conversation is lubricated by superb meals. As Senior Tutor, Bobbie has run the tutorial office smoothly and efficiently for nearly twelve years, and has taken a well-earned retirement from the end of July in order to pursue her research interests, including Women Artists of the Great War.

Her early career was as a teacher of English and History in the secondary modern schools of Liverpool and the Lake District. During the 1970s she worked for the British Council in Baghdad, and then the Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. These experiences of teaching adults from diverse cultural backgrounds have enabled her to appreciate the challenges faced by our own students in Clare Hall, many of whom come from abroad. After taking some time to raise a family, Bobbie resumed her career in the 1980s by teaching humanities at Swavesey Village College. Then she undertook an MA at Bradford specialising in Women’s Studies, followed by a PhD at Cambridge (New Hall and Faculty of Education) on the History of Education. From 1993 to 2003, she was a Senior Lecturer in History and the History of Education at Homerton College, Cambridge; during this time she also became a college tutor responsible for advising and overseeing the PGCs, undergraduate and graduate students.

In 2001 Bobbie came to Clare Hall. She had been attracted to the post of Senior Tutor knowing how fulfilling this role had been for her best friend and partner, Peter Gathercole, who had been the much loved Dean of Darwin for many years. With her good humour and straight down the line, no-nonsense approach, she came to be highly regarded not only by the tutorial team and staff, but also the students, many of whom still keep in touch with her. While rigorous in maintaining high academic standards, she also helped those in less fortunate circumstances to complete their studies and attain worthy degrees. And not to be forgotten, Bobbie instituted the Order of the Tutorial Teddy Bear (complete with cap and gown) awarded to students who were fecund not only in research but in other areas as well! I know the whole college joins me in thanking her and wishing her well in retirement.

Rosie Luff
Tutor
Welcome to Iain Black, new Senior Tutor

Iain Black was born near Hull, East Yorkshire, in 1963. He read Geography (with Economics) at the University of Sheffield (BA 1985) before spending a year travelling in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. He then became a graduate student at Sidney Sussex College, completing his PhD in 1991 on the Historical Geography of the banking system in early industrial England. Following this he took up his first academic post as a Research Fellow at the Centre for Metropolitan History, Institute of Historical Research, University of London. He subsequently taught at the University of Gloucestershire before being appointed to a Lectureship at King’s College London. In this period he published on various topics, including: reconstructing the spatial structure of banking and financial markets in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; the economic, social and architectural transformation of the City of London between the late eighteenth and early twentieth centuries; the diffusion of British banking culture to Pacific-Asia in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

At King’s Iain took on an increasing number of academic leadership roles, including chairing a range of departmental and school committees related to teaching. Between 1997 and 2000 he was Honorary Secretary of the Research and Higher Education Division of the Royal Geographical Society, intimately involved with reshaping this important scholarly society during a period of reform. Alongside teaching and administration he was also involved in a range of consultancy activities, making links between his academic research and a range of public bodies including the Museum of London, English Heritage and the London Development Agency.

In 2006 Iain returned to Cambridge, becoming a Fellow and Director of Studies in Geography at Sidney Sussex, subsequently adding the roles of Graduate Tutor and College Secretary. He brings a wide range of experience to the post of Senior Tutor at Clare Hall, gained in a number of different institutions over the last twenty years. These are challenging times for all students – undergraduate and graduate – and the significance of Clare Hall as a College for Advanced Study in the University will only grow in the years ahead as Cambridge strives to maintain its place amongst the great research-led universities of the world.

Outside work, Iain maintains his life-long interest in mountaineering. With over thirty alpine ascents in the 1980s and 1990s he is now introducing his young son to the hills and mountains of Wales and Scotland, together with his wife Sarah, herself a Cambridge Geography graduate (Girton 1989) and currently a Senior Manager with HSBC. Iain is excited by the challenges and opportunities Clare Hall offers to help and support students from many backgrounds and cultures.
From left: Robert Duvall, Evan Zimroth, Frederic Schick, Nami Morris and Eliza White
This year has been full of changes for Clare Hall’s Development Office. We saw our Development Director, Nami Morris, move on to Pembroke College where she took up the post of Deputy Development Director in May 2012. She wrote: ‘Like so many, I have become very fond of Clare Hall and shall miss it greatly.’ We would like to warmly thank Nami for the work she has done during her time at Clare Hall and wish her success in her new position.

This year has been very busy for Clare Hall’s Development Office. The college is delighted to have entered into an agreement with the Cambridge Judge Business School. From 2012-13, their Visiting Fellows will also be Clare Hall Visiting Fellows. This will be funded by Santander, one of the major banks in Britain. Another important development is that BP has agreed to give Clare Hall £50,000 a year for five years to fund Visiting Fellowships. We are very grateful to Life Member Andy Leonard of BP for his continued help and support.

In June 2012, Clare Hall also received the most extraordinary gift from Ivan Jankovic, a Serbian Life Member who first came to Cambridge in 1970 to study Criminology. Ivan Jankovic, who had not been in contact with the college for many years, reconnected with Clare Hall thanks to the 2010 Telephone Campaign. His incredible generosity will enable the creation of a graduate studentship for students of Serbian nationality in any subject.

Staying in touch with Life Members and increasing Clare Hall’s presence around the world continue to be extremely important. This year, we worked closely with many of the college’s Fellows to organise events for Life Members in the UK and abroad: Professor Hasok Chang and Dr Jennifer Rampling met with Life Members in Athens; Professor Dame Gillian Beer gave a talk entitled ‘Interdisciplinary Stories’ at the University of Helsinki; President, Sir Martin Harris, and Development Director, Nami Morris, attended the annual Cambridge in America Day in New York and were delighted to find that Clare Hall had the largest number of participants. Our warmest thanks go to Professor Donald King for enabling this trip to take place. And very special thanks to Honorary Fellow, President of Columbia University, Lee Bollinger for hosting a reception at Columbia for Life Members on 26th March. A truly splendid and memorable occasion!

The new academic year 2012-13 promises to be full of challenges. Pending the appointment of a new Development Director, the college as appointed an interim Director, Katy Astley, who comes highly recommended for her work with other colleges. We look forward to a busy and exciting year ahead.

Marie Lemaire
Development Office
With deep appreciation Clare Hall recognises the following individuals and organisations for their generosity during the 2011/2012 academic year. We are also grateful to those donors who wished to remain anonymous, have given gifts in kind, or made a bequest to the college.

**Organisations**
- AIG Matching Grants Program
- BP International
- Boat Club Ergathon 2011
- Cambridge University Press
- HM Government Matched Funding
- Santander
- The Spalding Trust
- The Tanner Foundation
- The Wyss Foundation

**Individuals**
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- Seonhong Ahn
- Ahuva Almogi-Labin
- Alexandra Antoniou
- John Atsu-Swanzy
- Jun-Kee Baek
- Hugh Barlow
- David Bates
- Gillian Beer
- Richard Bell
- Marion Berghahn
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- Michael Black
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- Yale and Kitty Ferguson
- Howard L. Fields
- Julia Fischer
- Mary Fissell
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2012

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Guy Welbon
Karel Wellens
Andrew Wernick
James White
David and Andrea Williams
James Wiseman
Joanna Womack
John Wood
Johan Wrede
Gillian Wu
Jing Xia
Anna Rong Yu
Jeffrey Zacks
Evan Zimroth
Research Fellows

Spring 2012

Mahdi Azarpeyvand
Dr Azarpeyvand graduated from the Iran University of Science and Technology in 2004 in Mechanical Engineering and obtained a PhD degree in Aeroacoustics and Fluid Mechanics in 2008 from the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research, University of Southampton. He was a Research Fellow at ISVR, working on a wide range of aero-acoustical problems.

He was awarded a Royal Academy of Engineering Research Fellowship in 2011 and joined the Fluid Mechanics group at the University of Cambridge to conduct research in the area of wind turbine and open propeller noise. His other current research activities include acoustic manipulation of micro- and nano-scale particles, pipe leak detection, and noise control.

Lefteris Karanasios
did a medical degree in Greece, where he also received his PhD in Biochemistry. He came to Cambridge to study how phospholipids regulate the size and shape of biological membranes and organelles, and then he became interested in autophagy. Autophagy allows cells to ‘eat’ bits of themselves and thereby get rid of damaged proteins, organelles or even pathogens.

Malfunction of autophagy gives rise to various diseases, including neurodegeneration, most notably in the forms of Parkinson’s or Alzheimer’s disease, cancer or infectious diseases. Autophagy requires that any unwanted pieces are sequestered from the rest of the cytoplasm, before the digestion step, and to this purpose the cells commit to impressive membrane rearrangements. Currently, he is investigating the origin of the membrane employed at the onset of autophagy.

Natalia I. Petrovskaia
was awarded her BA, MPhil and PhD by the University of Cambridge. Her PhD thesis investigated the influence of the crusade phenomenon on medieval Welsh literature. During her PhD, she also completed an independent research project on medieval vernacular translations of an important encyclopaedic treatise at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris. Her publications, in French and in English, include pioneering work on the only surviving medieval Welsh geographical treatise. She recently went on a lecture tour in Japan, where she was invited as guest speaker to Keio University and Chuo University in Tokyo, and to the meeting of the Japan Association for Welsh Studies in Osaka, giving all her lectures in Japanese.

At Clare Hall she will pursue her research on the interrelation of literary and historical events, investigating the influence of literary constructs on political discourse in twelfth- and thirteenth-century England and Wales.

John Regan
completed his PhD on Enlightenment and Romantic versification at Cambridge in 2009. He was a Research Fellow in Romantic literature at University College Dublin, and now writes and teaches in Cambridge. He is editing a book for Oxford University Press entitled The Boundaries of History and Literature in Romantic Britain and Ireland, 1780-1840. His research interests lie in the cultural dialogue between aesthetics and history in the long eighteenth century.

At Clare Hall John will investigate how ambivalent judgements about human progress — obtaining widely in historical texts in the period — are at play in processes of artistic composition, and in moments of affective response to aesthetic objects. He will analyse the differences between Kantian and British traditions of aesthetics, and will explore the extent to which historical, philosophical, ethical or civil concerns can ever be said to be at work in the production of art, whether written, painted or built.
Riccardo Strobino
Riccardo Strobino earned his PhD in philosophy at Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa (2009), where he then worked as a post-doctoral fellow. He was recently a research associate at the department of Oriental and Islamic Studies of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum in Germany.

Riccardo is interested in the historical development and the philosophy of logic, especially in the Middle Ages. The main focus of Riccardo’s current research is Arabo-Islamic logic and philosophy of language. He is working on Avicenna (d. 1037) and the post-classical period, with a special interest in the development of syllogistics and the theory of demonstration. His project at Clare Hall involves the first systematic analysis and translation into English of Avicenna’s Kitāb al-burhān, a study of the logic and epistemology of science modelled after Aristotle’s Posterior Analytics, which plays a central role in the context of Avicenna’s theory of scientific knowledge, and more generally in the development of Arabo-Islamic philosophy and traditional disciplines such as theology (kalām) and jurisprudence (fiqh).

Brian Walker
Brian Walker is from the state of Maryland and received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Cornell University in 2006. He wrote his PhD at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he studied the chemical conjugation and photophysics of molecular aggregates with semiconductor nanocrystals. At MIT he held fellowships from the National Science Foundation and the US Department of Defense.

At Clare Hall, Brian is the Herchel Smith Research Fellow in Materials for Sustainable Energy in the Department of Physics. His research is on the fundamental mechanism and photovoltaic applications of singlet fission. Singlet fission is a process that produces an additional electron for every photon of blue light absorbed, which could boost the efficiency limits of low-cost solar cells.

Emilia Wilton-Godberfforde
Emilia Wilton-Godberfforde studied at Oxford and Bath and has an MPhil and PhD (2011) from the University of Cambridge. Her PhD thesis, written in the Department of French, was entitled ‘Mendacity and the Figure of the Liar in Seventeenth-Century French Literature’ and is currently being revised into a book. She is also working on a new project on suicide in seventeenth-century drama. Her research interests include early modern literature, especially drama (particularly seventeenth-century comedy and tragedy); dramatic theory, reception and audience response; theories of the comic; gender studies and translation studies. In addition to her specialism in French literature, she is a qualified simultaneous interpreter and translator in French and Italian.

For the last six years she has been actively involved in outreach programmes teaching and writing online courses in French for Villiers Park Educational trust, an organisation which helps young people reach their full academic potential.

Eliza Zingesser
Eliza Zingesser did her BA at Smith College and her postgraduate work in French literature at Princeton University, where her research was supported by the Josephine de Kármán Foundation, the Institut Français d’Amérique, the Medieval Academy of America and the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies. At Clare Hall, she will be writing a book about the reception of Occitan lyric in France in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, a period which saw France’s political annexation of Occitania as a result of the Albigensian Crusade (1209-1229). She will explore how Occitan poems – from the very beginning of their French reception – were subtly incorporated into the French canon by way of imitation, compilation with French texts, and adaptation to the French sound system. Her next book project will examine cross-cultural encounters in the medieval pastourelle.
As always, Clare Hallers seem to have crammed an immense amount of activity into a short time. We started the academic year with a Welcome Week, including a party, barbecue, a walk to Grantchester in gorgeous weather, some punting on the Backs, and a sightseeing trip to London.

The new GSB committee was elected in Michaelmas term. As the nights drew in, student life focused on the college bar.

The newly elected Social Committee did us proud, making the Clare Hall social calendar one of the busiest and most varied in recent years. Sunday film nights, Tuesday takeaway nights, Friday grad mingles, and some increasingly competitive games of football brought a little bit of light and laughter to the winter months, although we did brave the cold to catch the Bonfire Night fireworks on Midsummer Common. Our Christmas party included a special guest appearance from Santa himself, helping to raise money for this year’s charity, Camfed.

Things stepped up a gear in Lent term with the arrival of Open Mic nights, live music and Superbowl Sunday in the ALB, Valentine candygrams for Camfed, Billy Elliott: The Musical in the West End, the 24-hour boat club fundraiser, trips to the Fitzwilliam Museum and Kettle’s Yard, Monday morning yoga, Burns Night and St Patrick’s Day celebrations, Rid and Charmaine’s art exhibition, and the somewhat controversial ‘competitive rotting’ apple installation for the Clare Hall Student Art Award! Meanwhile, Evianne van Gijn brought us some fantastic speakers for our Fellow-Student Interaction programme, including Prof. Olivier de Frouville, Dr. Peter Stern, and Professor Dame Gillian Beer. All this, plus the return of the Cambridge University Jazz Orchestra for another rather special evening of music, food and wine.

In sports, we had a good year, reported elsewhere in this Review. We also had the unforgettable sporting moment of David Weiss’s dip into the Cam to retrieve his keys. Fortunately he managed to avoid hypothermia … just … But perhaps some of the best memories of the year have been shared meals in house kitchens, friendships made, and Clare Hall’s unique atmosphere, where students and fellows from every corner of the planet come together for a little while, to learn from each other and maybe to see things a little differently than they did before. It has been a wonderful year – my thanks to you all, and best wishes for the future.

Nicola Clay, GSB President 2011-12
We make a mountain out of a molehill

It’s Valentine’s Day, my love

A single golden opportunity to assure ourselves that we make a mountain out of a molehill.

Blinded by love,

Your velvety fur

We two true moles

We two golden moles

Climbing the steps of love

Up where we belong

The Mountain of love

But you know that, don’t you?

But you probably know that already

I guess we know all of the above.

Nils Toepfer.

This poem won the Clare Hall Valentine’s Day poetry competition, 2012. Thanks to judge, James Byrne, Poet in Residence.
May Ball 2012:

Colours of India

For one memorable night in June Clare Hall brought the colours of India to Cambridge. This year’s May Ball was an extraordinary feast for the senses and a journey for mind and body, offering exotic flavours at the Indian buffet, aromatic shisha, Bollywood and belly dancing lessons, henna tattooing, relaxing foot massages and real wild-life experience with snake charmers and boa constrictors. With all this on offer, alongside the classical Indian music and colourful decorations, the ball guest felt like a traveller in the South of Asia, certainly at a lower price than a real journey to India.

Rachelle Pouplier
ASH talks

When Bob Ackerman and David Sacks arrived as Visiting Fellows at Clare Hall in 2001, they both noticed that the Visiting Fellows in the natural sciences and mathematics had departmental colloquia in which they could meet their colleagues and present their own work, but that no such amenity existed for those in the humanities and social sciences. When they proposed to fill that void, then-President Ekhard Salje immediately agreed and suggested the acronym ASH (for Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities). In the spring of 2002 David returned to the US, and Bob took on the role of organising this new part of college life.

Over the next ten years, Bob was pleased to see ASH become a useful and important part of the intellectual and social life of Clare Hall. Over that time several hundred VFs, along with a few Fellows, have delivered papers. (Titles of all talks presented since 2003-04 may be found on the College website.) After all this good work, Bob is now retiring from ASH; starting in autumn 2012 the new convener will be Adrian Du Plessis (Associate).

Our sincere thanks to Bob, now a Fellow Commoner, for his sterling work over the past 10 years, and a warm welcome to Adrian. Anyone interested in giving a paper to the ASH symposium can get in touch with Adrian on aduplessis@waitrose.com.

Fran May

James, transposing the stock opening in which letter-despatcher invites a friend to dinner, I'll just begin with thanks for lunch at Long Leys Farm—and for coming to fetch me where I stood on the steps of the Ashmolean. Details by now have blurred a little. When we drove up, from your door Darryl emerged, epitome of soft-voiced intelligence provided with skills to manage a buoyant reunion after I'm guessing more than five years. Given you had a meal to prepare, he volunteered to pilot my tour of the grounds, first to their wilder part, a pond where ... herons!—yes, splashed and dove.

Beyond that, an Audenesque pylon, modernizing the rural lasser allor. And here the garden proper, room after thick-petaled, leafy room, rain-soaked annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees, the plant kingdom given a path to expression fresh enough to daze me speechless. Talk resumed, though, when I met your gardener and saw how diligence could implement plans an envisionser dreams and lays out. Double capability, meanwhile, had called us to a light, tasty lunch. My topic: the morning spent in Prints and Drawings, holding pen-and-ink works by Samuel Palmer—among them the age-twenty self-portrait in tan and olive wash with gesso highlights. Was it resolve or innocence that spurred him to ponder wells reflecting a hurt so much in earnest? And then disclose what surfaced, youth's native gaze conceived as elegy; and, in that line, not surpassed by many artists.

Should I envy you your travels, James, ironic johnny-on-the-spot in 'all the wrong places', journalism your substitute for the M-16, the job description not allowing you to avert your gaze? Now, after a century of mass murders, how to trump burnout if those listening are too few to reverse the onrush of disaster? I sensed world travel no longer drew you, that you'd come home, content to book passage on frigates moored in your library. Couldn't they hoist anchor straight off for classical sites like Animula Vagula, Ut Pictura Poesis, Cras Amet, and current equivalents as well? Call for imaginative passion and you declare for justice also. Beginning at the breakfast table: distinct, low-key habits of concert were discernible in that duo. I overheard, its reflective poise a moving contrast with the single estate, or with partners less well matched.... Funny, I don't recall our goodbyes; which probably would have been succinct. But pictures so clear remain, it feels as if I never entirely left.

Alfred Corn
Visiting Fellow 2012
It was another good year for the Clare Hall sporting teams and individuals.

**Clare Hall Boat Club (CHBC)**

We started the season short of experienced rowers, as more than half of last year’s rowers had graduated. Those remaining worked hard to secure 32 novice rowers who showed enthusiasm and potential and gave us a strong presence at the Queen’s Ergs indoor rowing competition. We believe that the most important measure of a boat club is participation, and we are proud to have 51 active members now.

It is quite a job to train a novice. Our captains, Susanna Loof, Anna Huefner, Olivier Messe and David Weiss have put enormous effort into their crews. Their leadership and determination have given us confidence.

A 24-hour Erging Fund Raising Event was held on 11-12 February. It was a wonderful day. We organised a party with a professional DJ, a film, and a family rowing breakfast morning. All participants enjoyed their erging and many of them kindly donated money to the CHBC. Thanks to the fund raising officers, Lukas Vermach and Jim Russell, Treasurer Craig Murphy and GSB social chair Livia Bruzzi for their hard work. The event raised £721. Over the whole year, we raised more than £1,650. Grateful thanks to all who donated.

In the Lent Bumps we made good progress. The Men’s first crew (M1) is now the Head of Division VI with a +1 and Women’s first crew (W1) kept their position in Division III. Our M1 rowed twice every single day during the Bumps as a Sandwich Boat, rowing first as the head in the lower division and again at the bottom in the upper division. It was a truly exhausting race for the boys but they performed very well.

Our crews started the May Bumps with strong performances. The Men’s VIII bumped Wolfson’s M2 and our Women’s VIII rowed over on the first day. The following three days were full of drama. On day 3, our M1 was pumped by Downing M3. Worse than that, Downing’s boat crashed on us and put a hole the size of a squash ball in our boat. We sealed it with water-proof tape. On day 4, our M1 was given a ‘Technically Bumped’ by the race organiser, Cambridge University Combined Boat Clubs (CUCBC). We made a strong appeal against this judgement, with photo evidence, without success. Although the May Bumps this year were not very successful, the men’s 1st VIII ended on -1, and the women finished on -3. We learned a lesson about the unpredictability of the bumps format and pledged a strong return next year.

Over the summer, our women’s boat was refurbished and a new set of oars purchased.

New rowers are very welcome to join us in the coming year. Please contact me (otl32) or the Development Office.

Oliver Teng Long
President, Clare Hall Boat Club
Other sports news

The Clare Hall men’s football team is made up of both students and Fellows and captained by Victor Ortiz. In 2011-12 they had a solid season: after years of playing in the JCR league, the team joined the MCR league. A number of Clare Hall women played for the Murray Edwards women’s football squad, competing in Division Three of the PWC League.

This year a number of Clare Hall student-athletes achieved success on the University stage. Four Clare Hallers represented Cambridge as Blues this year (Barbora Doslikova and Alice Hsieh: women’s volleyball; Sarah Grimmer: netball; Erin Walters: women’s lacrosse), whilst two played for their respective seconds teams (Pranav Nanda: athletics; Jin Zhang: men’s basketball).

Two of Cambridge’s most successful teams this year were led by Clare Hallers. Alice Hsieh and Barbora Doslikova captained the Blues women’s volleyball team to yet another victorious season. The 2011-12 squad won their Varsity match 3-0 over Oxford, and earned silver in the Volleyball England Student Cup and bronze in the British Universities Championship Final.

The Blues women’s lacrosse team, with Clare Haller Erin Walters in goal, also capped off a dream season with a clutch 10-9 win over Birmingham in the BUCS National Championship. The team went undefeated on the season, winning their South Premiership league before being crowned National Champions. The Blues also convincingly dominated their Varsity game, beating Oxford 12-6 in a trouncing that saw Walters named Woman of the Match.

Doslikova, Hsieh, and Walters were all recognised with awards from the University’s Hawks Trust for sporting excellence, and Walters competed for Wales in the European Lacrosse Championships this summer. Other individual Clare Hall University student-athletes did brilliantly in their respective areas. Sarah Grimmer led a young Blues netball team this season; although the squad lost their Varsity match, they had some strong wins. Pranav Nanda’s athletics squad won their Varsity in October and continued to stretch their success into Lent term. On the basketball court, Jin Zhang led the Lions team to a third place finish in the Midlands league and a double-bashing of Oxford, with the Lions victorious both in league play and in Varsity. Congratulations to all.

Erin Walters

GSB Sports Officer
Audiences at Clare Hall’s concert series this year were treated to a wide array of genres, including the **Intimate Engagement** series (see Abigail Dolan’s report, below) and the **Divertimento** series, as well as individual concerts.

In December 2011, Clare Hall Associate Patrick Hemmerle treated us to a superb exploration of German Romanticism on the piano. January 2012 began with Duo Figaro (violinist Lucia D’Avanzo and Peter Mallinson, viola) presenting an exciting collection of classical and modern repertoire. We celebrated Burns Night with traditional Scottish dancing to the much-loved Cambridgeshire folk band Fendragon.

In March we were privileged to hear Clare Hall’s harpsichord master Dan Tidhar play Bach and Mozart pieces accompanying violinist Jennifer Bennett. The University Jazz band played ‘Big Band’ at a college dinner concert.

April brought two excellent concerts. Dan Tidhar returned with his ensemble, the Chesterton Baroque, highlighting Bach’s Fifth Brandenburg Concerto. Later that month Emmy and Grammy-award winning pianist Jacqueline Schwab presented a fascinating account of the development of Americana. In May we experienced the performance of Michael Nedo’s recital-with-recitative in meditation on Ludwig Wittgenstein, featuring lieder, a Bach fugue, a Labor clarinet quintet, and even a fragment by Wittgenstein himself.

There is also a biweekly Open Mic, organised by the Graduate Student Body supported by the Music Committee, featuring amateur performances of everything from Thelonious Monk to traditional Turkish songs in a casual coffee-house setting.

Our thanks to all the musicians who have graced our college, to our music ‘angels’ and to the President, the Music Committee and the college staff for their unfailing support.

**Paul Mulvaney**
Music Committee
It is a great pleasure for me to report on the fifth season of Clare Hall’s Intimate Engagements concert series. The format, in which prominent artists combine playing with informally reflecting on the programme’s theme, has proven to be very successful, and this season we again enjoyed a varied series of concerts presented in an intimate setting, enabling unique encounters to take place.

Pianist Ronan O’Hora opened the series in October 2011 with a monumental programme entitled *The Last Three Beethoven Piano Sonatas: A Journey Towards Silence*. O’Hora’s insights, coupled with a most lyrical and virtuosic piano playing, shed light on how Beethoven shapes the sense of unexpected in this radical musical experiment of the final triptych.

The Michaelmas term ended with soprano Evelyn Tubb and lute player Anthony Rooley presenting a programme focusing on the music of Henry Purcell and his younger brother, Daniel, featuring songs, instrumental works and inspiring poems. Performed with drama and humour, the duo brought their audiences to admire the well known artistry of Henry Purcell, to rediscover the treasures written by Daniel Purcell, and to reflect on how the canonic repertoire is being shaped.

In February, David Dolan and I played ‘Après un rêve’: *A Feast of French Music for Flute and Piano*, including works by Fauré, Debussy, Jolivet and Poulenc. In this programme we celebrated the new means of expression developed by both composers and performers of the French School, and shared our passion for portraying in performance musical timbres and shades of mood.

The last concert of this year’s series focused on *The Performer as Co-Creator in the First Viennese School*. In a programme consisting of works for cello and piano, string trio and piano quartet by Beethoven, Mozart and Schubert, the Ludwig String Trio – Peter Cropper, James Boyd and Paul Watkins – joined by pianist David Dolan, explored the space available for performers for extemporising in the context of masterpieces written by the great composers of the First Viennese School.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our warm and dedicated audiences for their support, as well as the ‘Music Angels’ and Cambridge University Press for their generosity over the last five years. The series couldn’t have taken place without you all! Next year’s season is in preparation, and I very much look forward to welcoming you for another year of enthralling musical encounters.

**Abigail Dolan**
Artistic Director
Art Eclecticism

Clare Hall Cambridge

Artist Quentin Blake
One of the pleasures for the Clare Hall Art Committee is to make choices between exhibitions over a remarkably wide range. The five exhibitions held in 2011-12 exemplify this.

The year opened with something unusual – an exhibition generated from within the college. Clare Hall was founded in 1966 and immediately set about looking for an architect. The choice was Ralph Erskine, an Englishman whose practice was in Stockholm, and who had made his name designing inspirational social housing schemes in post-war Sweden. Shortly after his first buildings for Clare Hall were created, he was commissioned to design a large housing estate in Byker, a deprived area of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Our exhibition, curated by photographer Andrea Baczynski, a member of the college, consisted of images which compared and contrasted the two schemes. Many of the photographs were taken by residents themselves. This startling and innovative exhibition was sponsored by the architectural firm BDP, and it was later shown at their London Headquarters.

Renée Spierdijk is a local artist who, over the past six years, has concentrated on portraying girls and women, often dressed formally. The paintings emphasise domestication and conditioning generally; she describes her subjects as being ‘patient, content or quietly mutinous’. Most of her work has been based on photographs of the subjects, but one very striking, large painting of three Indian girls shown in our gallery was painted from life. Renée has started to include texts as backgrounds to the portraits and these offer an added dimension as viewers attempt to discover the relationship between text and image.

Quentin Blake is a much-loved artist, widely known through book illustration. A newspaper critic wrote of him: ‘Blake is beyond brilliant. He’s anarchic, moral, infinitely subversive,… socially astute, sparse where he has to be, exuberantly lavish in the detail when he feels like it.’ Everyone who has read stories to children has been enchanted by Mister Magnolia or Cockatoos and it was no surprise in 1999 that he was created the first Children’s Laureate. Blake took on a project to provide illustrative material for the 800th Anniversary of Cambridge University (he had been at Downing College in the mid-1950s). The images proved hugely popular, depicting such events as Newton watching the apple drop, and Darwin riding a Galapagos tortoise. Many households now have coffee mugs bearing depictions of these seriously whimsical scenes.

We approached Quentin Blake, knowing of his popularity and his empathy with Cambridge. He was characteristically generous, offering an exhibition of illustrations commissioned for the maternity wing of the Centre Hospitalier at Angers in France. They show images of just-born babies and their mothers in watery surroundings. Of them, Blake had written, ‘The illustrations are a way of saying “it’s going to be all right in a minute”… the important thing is the exchange of look between the mother and the baby, who are meeting for the first time.’

Greatly contrasting with Blake’s maternity scenes, Clare Hall showed an exhibition of work by John Wonnacott. He had invited members of the Art Committee to his studio at Leigh on Sea, which looks out on to the wide marshes of the Thames estuary. Wonnacott came to public fame in 2000, when he was commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery to commemorate the 100th birthday of the Queen Mother. The remarkable group-portrait depicts six members of the Royal Family stretching over four generations. But on that autumn day in Wonnacott’s studio, we noticed that a recurrent theme was that of self-portraiture. The series was remarkable for the fact that there were paintings of himself at school, at art college, and at every stage of his life. Clare Hall was privileged to show the series. Perhaps the only comparable exercise in self-portraiture has been Rembrandt’s, and ambitious though the Art Committee is, such an exhibition seems unlikely at Clare Hall!

The final exhibition was based on a simple idea: fellows of the college were asked to lend one painting from their own collection. The result was revealing: like books, paintings define the man, or woman. There was a competition to see who could guess who owned what. The winner was our former Bursar, Joanna Womack, who got 12 out of the 28 correct. Bursars sometimes possess frightening insights.

Robert Anderson
Chair, Art Committee
The Ashby Lecture 2012 was delivered by John Fisher Burns before a large audience in the auditorium of the University Law School on the evening of 9 May. Mr Burns, the chief foreign correspondent for the New York Times, is now the head of its London bureau (and our neighbour on Herschel Road); the title of his talk was In the Eye of the Storm: Journalists under Fire. Mr Burns did indeed give us a number of anecdotes about coming under hostile fire at the ‘front’, but his lecture did not consist mainly of such accounts. His talk was built around a few important observations about the current state of journalism, which were illustrated by anecdotes drawn from his own highly varied experience. The key to his talk lay in the obvious fact that Mr Burns was, and remains, an extremely good reporter. Although he did sometimes draw back and give the audience a view of the ‘big picture’, mainly he sought out and gave us the telling moment that would illustrate his point. Throughout, he was intent on giving us a ‘story’ in both the journalistic as well as the ordinary narrative sense.
Born in Nottingham in 1944, Mr Burns grew up in Canada, where his family had emigrated when he was a child. He began his journalistic career with the Toronto Globe and Mail in the early 1970s, moving to the New York Times in 1975. He lived in and wrote about Africa in the late 1970s; studied Russian at Harvard (1980-81), and then went to Moscow as Times bureau chief 1981-84. A year-long intensive study of Chinese at Cambridge in 1984 served as preparation for a lengthy spell in Beijing. In 1989 he was back in Cambridge, this time to study Islamic history and culture, which led to assignments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan and then Baghdad in the years leading up to the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Two Pulitzer Prizes were collected along the way.

Mr Burns began by explaining his name. New York Times style requires middle names or initials, so for most of his journalistic career, he was known as John F. Burns. Returning to Britain and Cambridge in his current assignment, he noticed for the first time the St. John Fisher Catholic Chaplaincy Centre here in town, and remembered that his mother had given him his middle name because her family was descended from the fifteenth-century University Chancellor and Catholic martyr. It occurred to him that Fisher, in his dedication to the truth as he saw it, had lived a life that in some way represented the main impulse in his own life. This in turn impelled him to learn more about his illustrious relative, and finally to adopt Fisher as part of his by-line.

He then turned to one of his main themes: ethics and journalism. Because the nature of the business causes journalists to come into contact with powerful people, it is too easy for reporters to imagine that they are important too. At a presidential news conference, when the President calls you by your first name, the ego rush is undeniable. Entertaining such an illusion for more than a moment, however, represents professional death because it means the loss of one’s intellectual independence. A good reporter must always stand ready to challenge the reigning orthodoxy. This can be uncomfortable but it must be done.

The first time Mr Burns was stationed in China, as the newcomer he was advised by old China hands not to judge what he saw by his own Western standards. While taking a journey, he saw a body floating in the river. His guide suggested that the man must have fallen into the water and drowned. As a result, for a while, Mr Burns said, he wrote ‘rubbish’ because he did not challenge the official line, which all too often turned out to be false and corrupt. At the time Mr Burns thought he was doing well, but they were laughing at him. A useful lesson was learned.

Burns’s next point, which he called a law of journalistic nature, is to Open All Doors. This was engraved in his consciousness by his first assignment in China, which lasted ten years. That decade made it clear to him, however, that in a closed society the problem is not that something goes wrong from time to time. It is that everything goes wrong. Although we came to understand, before the Chinese told us, some of the terrible things that went on during the Cultural Revolution, it turned out that everything was much worse than people had imagined. The only guarantor of social justice is openness, and in particular openness of information. Mr Burns was pleased to conclude with the observation that the Freedom of Information Act has made Britain a much fairer and more just society, much more open than the Britain in which he grew up.

Robert Ackerman
I am originally from Canada and studied biochemistry at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. After a PhD at the Institute of Cancer Research in London, I came to Cambridge in 2004 to pursue post-doctoral studies at the Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology (MRC LMB).

The LMB has a strong tradition of encouraging innovative and cutting-edge research, both into fundamental biological questions as well as development of new technologies. Remarkably, the lab has hosted the work of 13 Nobel Prize winners. Its success is partly dependent on the tradition of maintaining small group sizes, which fosters collaboration and sharing of expertise. Personally, I have found that this provides an intellectually stimulating and supportive environment in which to work.

Since 2009, I have been a Group Leader at the MRC LMB. My laboratory is interested in understanding how genes are regulated. Genes are encoded in DNA, and they must be copied into intermediate messenger RNA (mRNA) molecules before they can be translated into proteins. The rates at which mRNAs are produced, translated into proteins, and degraded are all important determinants in the timing, quantity and location of protein production within a cell. These processes are regulated so different cells can express alternate sets of genes to perform their function (a skin cell has a very different role to a neuron, for example). In addition, cells may change their complement of proteins in response to other signals, such as growth or cell stress.

One end of the mRNA molecule has a ‘poly(A)’ tail attached to it. The tail’s length and position dictates how stable the mRNA is, and how efficiently it can be translated into protein. Therefore, the poly(A) tail regulates gene expression. Faulty regulation of poly(A) tails contributes to diseases such as cancer and heart disease.

I am interested in how poly(A) tails are added and removed from mRNA. To do this, I isolate the cellular proteins which are responsible for modifying the poly(A) tail and study them through a multi-disciplinary approach. My lab studies the biochemical activities of both normal and mutant proteins, and tests their abilities to function in living cells. In addition, we use electron microscopy and x-ray crystallography to understand the structures of these proteins. This gives us insight into their biochemical mechanisms, how they interact with mRNA and how they are regulated.

We use electron microscopy as a tool to generate three-dimensional models of proteins. This is a developing field and we also work on technical improvements of the methods. The image here shows a field of purified ribosomes (the cellular machines that translate mRNA into protein, 25 nm in diameter) at ~50 000 X magnification obtained using electron microscopy.

My work is funded by the MRC and through a European Research Council Starting Grant. In 2006, I was delighted to be elected a Research Fellow at Clare Hall, followed by election as an Official Fellow in 2009.

Lori Passmore
Climate change:
What do we know and what should we do?
Clare Hall Fellow, Chris Hope, writes about his research

It is one of the great contentious issues of our age. Scientist Sir David King calls it a far greater threat to the world than international terrorism. Economist Lord Nicholas Stern calls it the greatest market failure the world has ever seen. To film maker Martin Durkin it’s the great global warming swindle. This is the arena in which I’ve worked for the past twenty years, trying to help Governments decide what, if anything, they should do about climate change.

It was my PhD supervisor, Professor Richard Eden, who drilled into me how important it is to have the best evidence if we are to make good decisions. For climate change, that evidence comes from two sources: the scientists who have toiled for decades to understand how temperatures, sea level and natural systems will change if we continue to put greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide into the air, and the economists who try to work out what economic damage those changes will cause, and what it will cost us to cut our emissions or adapt to the changed climate. What I do is build computer models that put together the best information from the scientists and the economists – hence their name, integrated assessment models. These models are the best tools we have to decide whether to cut our greenhouse gas emissions by 10% or 50% or 90%, and whether to charge firms $10 or $100 or $1000 for every tonne of carbon dioxide they emit by burning coal or oil or gas.

It is challenging work. For a start, despite the best efforts of thousands of scientists, we do not yet know how much the Earth’s temperature will eventually rise if we double the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which we are likely to do within the next 40 years or so if we carry on as we are; credible estimates range from 1.5 degrees C through a mean of about 3 degrees C to 5 degrees C and beyond.

And the economists are far from agreed on how much damage would result; some say we would adapt easily and the damage would be only a few tenths of a percent of our gross domestic product, not enough to justify spending more on carbon-free sources of energy like nuclear power and renewables. But most feel the damage is likely to be several percent of our economic output, and point out that if a 5 degree rise in temperature led to the melting of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets, as seems likely, the resulting sea level rise of several metres would devastate many of the world’s main cities from New York to Shanghai.

Integrated assessment modellers need to take all these views into account and calculate their results under the most profound uncertainty. The advice we give is all about managing risks. On balance, the best policy seems to be to charge a climate change tax of about $100 per tonne of carbon dioxide on all emissions in rich countries like the United Kingdom, and to use the substantial revenues this would raise to reduce income, sales and payroll taxes. Tackling climate change while boosting the economy. Now who could argue with that?

Chris Hope
Clare Hall Annual Review 2012

Profile:

Niraj Lal follows the Sun

It’s a love of the sun that brought Niraj Lal to Cambridge. The Gates Scholar from Australia is currently completing his PhD in Physics on ‘Enhancing Solar Cells with Plasmonic Nanovoids’ – using really small structures to make solar panels more efficient. And whilst England hasn’t been the sunniest place to do research, Niraj (or Nij as he is known) has absolutely loved it.

Nij’s particular research is to use miniature Buddhist singing bowls to concentrate light to increase the efficiency of solar panels. Singing bowls produce an unearthly musical resonance when they’re rubbed, and Nij has developed a way to do the same thing with light for structures about 100,000 times smaller.

It is research that has brought fruitful results – he has three publications out with a fourth on the way, and was the only PhD student invited to present at the 5th International Conference for Surface Plasmon Photonics, held in Busan, South Korea where he was awarded the Conference’s Students Research Prize of 520,000 Korean won (about £285). It was the second conference Niraj has been invited to – in 2010 he gave an invited presentation at the Optics Society of America Congress, held in Karlsruhe, Germany. Nij’s thesis explains why his organic plasmonic solar cells are ‘orgasmonic’ – giving four times more efficiency than similar flat solar cells.

Alongside his physics research, Nij has a passion for science outreach. Before coming to Cambridge, Nij worked with Scitech - the West Australian Government’s Science Outreach program, taking shows about slime, bubbles, and fun science out on the road to thousands of schoolchildren including those in remote Aboriginal communities. He’s continued with outreach in Cambridge and graduated in 2009 from the University’s Rising Stars Public Engagement Program. During his time in Cambridge, Nij has appeared on the BBC Radio Naked Science program, written an article for them on ‘How Solar Cells Work’, and worked with disadvantaged secondary school students from the Cambridge region on the science of the future through the Wysing Arts Centre. He regularly gives shows to high-school students and the general public on ‘The Science of Electricity’ in addition to lecturing at the University’s summer schools.

Away from academic things, Nij loves to stay active – he ran a marathon in 2009, was Captain of Football at Clare Hall in 2010, completed a triathlon in 2011 and this year will swim 5km for the Marie-Curie Swimathon. He founded the Purple Shin Football Competition at the Cavendish Laboratory, plays saxophone and didgeridoo in The Valence Band (made up of PhD students from the Cavendish), and drums in the Arco Iris samba band.

In October 2012, Nij will take up a 3-year Australian Solar Institute Fellowship at the Australian National University to continue research into solar cell physics. He’s most excited about the fact that they are happy for him to work 9 days a fortnight – giving time to continue doing outreach, play with his 2-year-old nephew and go surfing.
News of members

Jan Adamowski (Graduate Student 2003-04) held a post-doctoral fellowship at MIT, and is now Assistant Professor in the Department of Bioresource Engineering and Director of the Integrated Water Management Program at McGill University.


John Barrow (Professorial Fellow) was awarded the Christopher Zeeman Medal 2011 by the London Mathematical Society and Institute of Mathematics and its Applications.


Gillian Beer (President 1994-2001) received an honorary Doctor of Letters from Harvard University in June 2012.


Michael Black (Emeritus Fellow) has published Learning to be a Publisher: Cambridge University Press, 1951-1987: Personal Reminiscences (2011).

Helena Blumenfeld (Recipient of President’s Award 2008) is exhibiting four monumental works in the 2012 Fitzwilliam Museum Sculpture Promenade. In May 2012 her 4m high Carrara marble sculpture, Tempesia, was unveiled on a site overlooking Hyde Park, London.

Lynn Botelho (Graduate Student 1991-96) has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to do research at King’s College, London.

Stephen Bourne (Official Fellow), recently retired as Chief Executive of Cambridge University Press, is the first foreign publisher to be awarded the Beijing International Book Fair Special Book Award of China (2011).


Jane Carruthers (Visiting Fellow 2004) has been elected Vice-President of the Royal Society of South Africa and President of the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations. She was promoted to Research Professor at the University of South Africa.

Gerald Chan (Visiting Fellow 2002-04) has co-edited China at 60 (2011) and co-authored China Engages Global Governance (2012).

Daniel Cole (Visiting Fellow 2000) has been appointed as Professor jointly to the Maurer School of Law, the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and the Vincent and Elinor Ostrom Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, University of Indiana. He has co-edited Property in Land and Other Resources (2012).

Howard Colquhoun (Visiting Fellow 2007) has been elected President of the Materials Chemistry Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Jeff Colyer (Graduate Student 1981-82) has been elected Lt. Governor of the State of Kansas. He works as a plastic surgeon in Kansas City and was recently a volunteer doctor in Libya and Tunisia during the conflicts.


Rachel Cowgill (Visiting Fellow) has co-edited The Arts of the Prima Donna in the Long Nineteenth Century (2012).

Jessica Milner Davis (Visiting Fellow 2011) has been appointed Senior Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Bologna in 2012. She has co-edited Humour in Chinese Life and Letters: Classical and Traditional Approaches (2011).

John Drew (Graduate Student 1974-78) has published Raid Stopped Play: A Village Cricket Match at Shoreham 1940 (2011).

Richard Eden (Honorary Fellow) has published a book of memoirs, Sometimes in Cambridge (2012). Further information can be found on the Clare Hall website.

Ian Farnan (Official Fellow) has been elected to a Readership in Earth and Nuclear Materials in the Department of Earth Sciences.

Peter Forster (Graduate student 1976-80) has been appointed Senior Lecturer and Course Leader in Counselling at the University of Worcester.

Alban Gautier (Visiting Fellow 2012) has co-edited Échanges, communications et réseaux dans le haut Moyen Âge. Études et textes offerts à Stéphane Lebecq (2012) and De la mer du Nord à la mer Baltique. Identités, contacts et communications au Moyen Âge (2012).


David Gosling (Spalding Fellow 1992) has published Darwin, Science and the Indian Tradition (2011). He has also been elected a member of the International Society for Science and Religion.

Niccolò Guicciardini (Visiting Fellow 2004-05) was awarded the Fernando Gil International Prize for the Philosophy of Science for his book, Isaac Newton on Mathematical Certainty and Method (2009).

Jesper Gulddal (Visiting Fellow 2005-06) has published Anti-Americanism in European Literature. Congratulations to Jesper and Julie on the birth of Delphine.
News of members

Lawrence Hamilton (Research Fellow 2001-03) was elected a Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa in 2011. And congratulations to Lawrence and Mairead McAuley on the birth of Lorcan in 2011.


Caspar Hirsch (Research Fellow 2007-10) was elected to the chair of history at University of St Gallen in 2011. He published The Origins of Nationalism: An Alternative History from Ancient Rome to Early Modern Germany (2012).

Congratulations to Tony Hooley (Graduate Student 1971-77) and Evelyn Nallen on their wedding in April 2012.

Francesca Howell (Graduate Student 1992-93) has been awarded her PhD from the Open University (2011) on religion and the sense of place and festival in northern Italy.

David Hughes (Research Fellow 1982-5) received the Japan Society’s 2011 award for ‘outstanding contributions to Anglo-Japanese relations and understanding’.

Warren Johnston (Graduate Student 1996-2000) has published Revelation Restored: The Apocalypse in Later Seventeenth-Century England (2011), and has been promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of History and Philosophy, Algoma University, Canada.

Abdur Khan (Visiting Fellow 1981-82) has published Musharaf and the Great Double Game in North-West Pakistan (2011).

Christopher Koegl (Graduate Student 2007-11) was joint winner of the Nigel Walker Prize 2011, for the best submitted PhD in the field of Criminology at the University of Cambridge. Congratulations to Christopher and Elinor on the birth of Flora.

Mathias Kelle (Graduate Student 2006-10) was appointed as a post-doctoral researcher at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences in 2010. Congratulations to Mathias and Julia Grunert on the birth of Leo in September 2011.

Su Shiung Lam (Graduate Student 2007-12) was awarded an A.T. Kearney Scholarship (2011), and has co-authored two articles on fuel (2011 and 2012).

Miriam Levin (Visiting Fellow 2012) co-authored Urban Modernity: Cultural Innovation in the Second Industrial Revolution. This was honoured by the American Library Association as an outstanding book of 2011.

Michael Loewe (Emeritus Fellow) has been awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters by the University of East Anglia, in recognition of his work on early Chinese history.

Tom Lundskaer-Nielsen (Carlsberg-Clare Hall Visiting Fellow 1988-89) has published Prepositions in English Grammars until 1801 - With a Survey of the Western European Background (2011).

Peter Marks (Visiting Fellow 2009-10) has been appointed Associate Professor at the University of Sydney and has published George Orwell the Essayist: Literature, Politics and the Periodical Culture (2011).

Elizabth Mills (Graduate Student 2005-06) has been listed as one of the Top 200 Young South Africans in the field of health.

Benjamin Morris (Graduate Student 2006-10) has published a novel, The Belle (2011).

Louise Noble (Visiting Fellow 2006) has published Medicinal Cannibalism in Early Modern English Literature and Culture (2011).

Silvia Pasquetti (Research Fellow) has published ‘The Reconfiguration of the Palestinian National Question: The Indirect Rule Route and the Civil Society Route’, Political Power and Social Theory, 23 (2012).

Luca Passamonti (Betty Behrens Research Fellow 2008-10) has published an article on brain chemistry and aggression in Biological Science (2011).

Margaret Pearson (Visiting Fellow 1997-98) has published The Original I Ching: An Authentic Translation Based on Recent Discoveries (2011).

Jennifer Rampling (Research Fellow) has been appointed Editor of Ambix, leading journal on the history of chemistry.


Jonathan Rose (Visiting Fellow 2005) recently retired from the College of Law at the Arizona State University and was honoured by a campaign to raise funds for a scholarship in his name. He has co-edited Laws, Lawyers, and Texts: Studies in Medieval Legal History in Honour of Paul Brand (2012).

Elizabeth Ashman Rowe (Official Fellow) has published Vikings in the West: The Legend of Ragnar Lodbrok and His Sons (2012).

Henry ‘Duke’ Ryan (Visiting Fellow 1987) is writing plays with the Playwrights’ Collaborative in Washington. He is also working with elderly and disabled people, helping them to cope with the demands of daily life in their own homes.
Malabika Sarker (Visiting Fellow) has been Vice-Chancellor of Presidency University in Kolkata, India, since October 2011. Her book, Cosmos and Character in Paradise Lost was published in 2012.

Martin Sahlén (Graduate Student 2003-04) has been elected to a post-doctoral fellowship at the Beecroft Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology, University of Oxford, as part of the project ‘Establishing the Philosophy of Cosmology’.


Alan Short (Professorial Fellow) has co-authored Geometry and Atmosphere, Theatre Buildings from Vision to Reality (2012).

Pou Seong Sit (Visiting Fellow 2011) has published Fostering Reading Literacy in Young Children: Environments, Assessment and Teacher Professional Development (in Chinese, 2011).

Congratulations to Sebastian Skeaping (Graduate Student 1997-2003) and Sam on the birth of Eleanor in July 2011.

Uwe Sleytr (Associate 1972-75) has been elected a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical Biological Engineering.

Congratulations to Diana Smith (Domestic Bursar 1994-2000) on the birth of her seventh grandchild, Thomas Staveley.

Anna Soci (Visiting Fellow 1999) has been awarded the Jemolo Fellowship at Nuffield College, Oxford in 2013.

Darko Suvin (Visiting Fellow, 1973-74): has published Defined by a Hollow: Essays on Utopia, Science Fiction and Political Epistemology (2010) and Darko Suvin: A Life in Letters (2011). He has been elected a member of PEN Club Italy.

In Memoriam

We regret to announce the following deaths:

Marjorie McCallum Chibnall (Emeritus Fellow) died in June 2012 in Sheffield, aged 96.


Ursula M Dronke (Research Fellow 1969-72) died in March 2012.

James Durbin (Visiting Fellow 1977-78) died in June 2012, aged 88.

Leonidas E Hill (Visiting Fellow 2000) died in April 2012.

Ruth Marcus (Visiting Fellow 1988) died in February 2012.

Guillermo A O’Donnell (Visiting Fellow 2002-03) died in November 2011.


We always look forward to hearing from our members, so please continue to send us news and changes of address. If you are visiting Cambridge, we can often provide accommodation so do contact us for availability. For information about college activities, renting rooms for special occasions, weddings, parties, conferences, summer residential conferences and small lectures, please contact or email alumni@clarehall.cam.ac.uk telephone 44 1223 332360 or look on our website.