



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

Classics at Emmanuel: RETIREMENTS AND AN EXCITING APPOINTMENT

Professor Christopher Whitton (2007), Fellow and Director of Studies, has been elected to the Kennedy Professorship of Latin. He will assume the post later this year, succeeding Professor Stephen Oakley (1984) upon his retirement. Professor Oakley has warmly welcomed the appointment, praising Chris's exceptional dedication to teaching and his international standing as a scholar.

The Professorship, established in honour of Benjamin Hall Kennedy, has a distinguished lineage; its first holder was the celebrated scholar and poet A E Housman.

We are also marking the forthcoming retirement of Fellow Nigel Spivey (1977), Senior Lecturer in Classical Archaeology and Vice-Master. Nigel came up to Emmanuel as an undergraduate in 1977 and Stephen's and Nigel's contributions as teachers, researchers and leaders have



Professor Stephen Oakley, left, with Professor Christopher Whitton, right; Dr Nigel Spivey (1977)

shaped generations of students and colleagues. Their impact on the College community will long be felt.

Together, these milestones highlight both continuity and renewal within Emmanuel's classical tradition, honouring the remarkable service of longstanding Fellows while celebrating the achievements of those who will carry the discipline forward.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



Pictured, left to right: Poppy Rhodes, Justine Waddell, Philippa O'Neill, Sally Walker, Odette Mead

Emmanuel marked Women's History Month with its fourth annual Women's Leadership Forum, held on International Women's Day. The event brought together MCR and ECSU Women's Officers Sumedha Chakravarthy (2023), Odette Mead (2025) and Poppy Rhodes (2025) and a panel of members from different professional sectors: Sally Walker (1992), former Director of Cyber Operations at GCHQ; Philippa O'Neill (1992), Partner at Birketts Solicitors; and Justine Waddell (1994), actor, producer and founder of the streaming platform Klassiki.

Spanning national security, law and the arts, the panel shared reflections on leadership, resilience and navigating personal and professional challenges. A theme that resonated throughout the discussion was the enduring power of friendships formed at Emma, connections that continue to support, challenge and uplift long after graduation.

COLLEGE RESEARCH ASSOCIATES SYMPOSIUM



Stefano Banno, President of the CRA Society Committee in the Old Library

Emmanuel's growing community of College Research Associates (CRAs) came together for a symposium and dinner in February. The event showcased the strength and breadth of research being carried out across disciplines, with many new CRAs presenting. Stefano Banno (2024), President of the CRA Society Committee, reflected: 'It was fantastic to see so many people involved. It has been a great pleasure and honour to co-organise this event.'

CRAs play a key role in linking the college with the wider academic world, enriching college life through research and interdisciplinary engagement. Emmanuel's CRA community has reached almost 100 members, demonstrating the college's commitment to supporting and developing these valued researchers.



Nina Sooter (2026) speaking at the CRA Symposium

Members meet the Master in Hong Kong



The Master, his wife Helen and Sarah Bendall, Development Director, met members and their guests in Hong Kong this April.

Over dinner at the Hong Kong Club, kindly hosted by Tim Freshwater (1963), members enjoyed connecting across the generations with matriculation years ranging from 1963 to 2025.

The trip also presented a valuable opportunity to meet with and learn from colleagues at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Honorary Fellow YUK-MING DENNIS LO (1983) nominated for doctorate in Medical Sciences



Honorary Fellow Professor Yuk-ming Dennis Lo (1983), has been nominated for a University of Cambridge honorary doctorate in Medical Sciences. Renowned for discovering free foetal DNA in maternal blood and pioneering non-invasive prenatal testing, Professor Lo also advanced the use of free DNA as a biomarker for diseases such as cancer. He is now Li Ka Shing Professor of Medicine and President of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The University of Cambridge has nominated eight individuals for honorary degrees, which will be conferred in June.

VINCENT LUMSDEN SOCIETY *holds its second annual dinner*



Left to right, Nene Obiajuru (2022), Amber Morrison (2022), Dr Ron Agble (1993), John Chinegwundoh (1988)

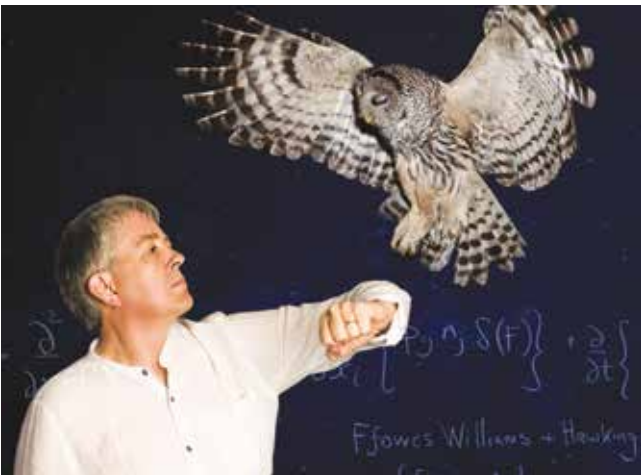
The second annual Vincent Lumsden Society Dinner took place in Lent term, bringing together students, members, Fellows and guests from across the college community and beyond. Building on last year's inaugural event, the dinner reflected the society's continued growth and strong sense of community. This special event was organised by students and close friends Nene Obiajuru (2022) and Amber Morrison (2022). The society honours Vincent Lumsden (1952), one of Emmanuel's first Black students, and fosters an affirming space for Black students. We were honoured to welcome Dr John Chinegwundoh (1988) as guest speaker and are grateful to all who made the evening possible.

Fellow and Professor of Applied Mathematics NIGEL PEAKE named as new Master at Darwin College

Professor Nigel Peake (1984), Fellow of Emmanuel and currently Professor of Applied Mathematics and Head of the School of Physical Sciences, has been elected the next Master of Darwin College, Cambridge.

Professor Peake's research focuses on wave motion, with particular emphasis on acoustics and aerodynamics. Studies included looking at the silent flight of owls, which contributed to the development of a new technology for wind turbine blades that significantly reduced noise pollution.

He will assume the Mastership of Darwin College on 1 October, succeeding the current Master, Dr Mike Rands.



CELEBRATING SUCCESSES *at the 2026 Boat Race*



Ellie Sillar (2024) (third from right) celebrating her Blondie victory

A superb Easter weekend on the Tideway saw five Emma athletes in this year's Boat Race campaign and an impressive seven wins from eight races. In the women's reserve race, Blondie defeated Oxford's Osiris with a strong performance by Ellie Sillar (2024). Olivia Wright (2023) helped the Women's Lightweight crew secure its seventh consecutive victory.

Luke Beever (2022) and Simon Nunayon (2024) rowed together in Goldie, beating Oxford's Isis for the fourth straight year. In the Women's Boat Race, Matt Moran (2025) coxed the Blue Boat through challenging conditions, though Oxford ultimately claimed the win.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tennis afternoon with Emmanuel College Tennis Club

Saturday 13 June 2026, 2pm, Emmanuel College Sports Ground, Wilberforce Road, Cambridge, CB3 0EQ

Join the Emmanuel College Tennis Club for an afternoon of friendly doubles on the grass courts at Wilberforce Road Sports Ground, and join members of the club afterwards for dinner in Hall.

Frankland Society Lunch

Sunday 28 June 12.00pm – 3.00pm, Emmanuel College
Members of the Frankland Society are invited to a special lunch and viewing of the Graham Watson Collection. This event is held to thank those who have chosen to remember Emmanuel in their Will.

Emmanuel Society Garden Party

Saturday 11 July 2026, 2.30pm – 5.30pm, Emmanuel College

The Emmanuel Society is delighted to welcome you back to the college's beautiful gardens for an afternoon of activities for the whole family, including Pimm's, afternoon tea, lawn tennis, croquet, live music, face painting, children's entertainment, arts and crafts, talks, a bouncy castle, swimming and more.



Emmanuel Society Garden Party

Stowe House behind-the-scenes tour and lunch

Thursday 16 July 2026, 11.00am, Stowe House, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire, MK18 5EH

Join us at Stowe House, one of Britain's most remarkable buildings. You'll get to know the history and architectural heritage of Stowe from those who know it best, and enjoy a buffet lunch.

Guided tour of the Foundling Museum

Tuesday 15 September 2026, 2.00pm, 40 Brunswick Square, London, WC1N 1AZ

Members are invited to the Foundling Museum, one of London's museums and art collections, for a guided tour. You'll see works by Gainsborough, Reynolds, Roubilliac, and Hogarth.

Emmanuel Society London Drinks

Tuesday 15 September 2026, 6pm, Bunghole Cellars, Davy's at Holborn, 57 High Holborn, WC1V 6DT

Our next London Drinks event offers a great opportunity for networking and a chance to catch up with fellow Emma members from across the subjects and years.

Future Gatherings of Members

years in brackets refer to matriculation:

- September 2026 (2003, 2004 & 2005)
- March 2027 (1995, 1996 & 1997)
- September 2027 (1987, 1988 & 1989)
- March 2028 (1979, 1980 & 1981)
- September 2028 (1966 and all years before)

Visit emma.cam.ac.uk/members/events for all events

Careers Database

Join more than 900 members by adding or updating your entry to the Emmanuel Careers Database.

Do sign up even if you graduated relatively recently, as advice on applications, surviving interviews and getting started in a new job can all be really valuable.

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