



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025

Bobby Seagull (2015) SHARES HIS 100TH EMMA CONNECTS PUZZLE

Readers of the e-news bulletin, *Emma Connects*, will be used to seeing Bobby Seagull (2015)'s puzzles over the past few years. From his very first puzzle, which intriguingly comprised a quirk linking Emmanuel's founder, Sir Walter Mildmay, with the 1971 film *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, to much-loved seasonal highlights of the year including a visit from the Easter bunny and major sporting highlights, Bobby has kept members entertained. He recently produced his 100th edition, marking a significant moment for all with a fondness for his puzzles.

'When I was first asked to write a few puzzles during lockdown for Emma Connects, I had no idea it would become a staple of my monthly routine more than five years later,' says Bobby.

'Although I'm usually best known as a former captain of an Emma University Challenge team, more and more



Bobby Seagull (2015), question setter for the *Emma Connects* monthly puzzle

members now say "Oh, you're that guy who writes the monthly puzzles!" Inspiration for the themes can strike at any moment – whether I'm listening to the sports roundup on Radio 4's *Today* programme or catching a glimpse of a poster on the side of a London bus.'

NEW COLLEGE WEBSITE LAUNCHES

At the end of Easter term, the college launched its brand-new website. The project was a collaborative effort between all departments to create something simple, functional and attractive to all users. We hope you've had an opportunity to look around!

Members can find events to attend, book High Table dining and guest rooms, read the latest publications, update personal details, access the careers and networking database, and more. All of this can be found under the *Members* menu item. Any links you may have bookmarked in the past will stay the same.

We hope you enjoy exploring the new website: www.emma.cam.ac.uk

Emmanuel is where knowledge becomes wisdom and achievement becomes service

FELLOWS' NEWS

Julian Hibberd elected a Fellow of the Royal Society



Professor Julian Hibberd (2000), Fellow of Emmanuel, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. Professor Hibberd is head of the department of plant sciences. His work aims to understand mechanisms underpinning the evolution of photosynthesis, focusing on understanding how the efficient C₄ photosynthetic pathway works. He was awarded the President's Medal of the Society for Experimental Biology in 2005.

Clare Pettitt elected a Fellow of the British Academy



Professor Clare Pettitt (1984), Fellow of Emmanuel, has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy. Professor Pettitt is one of the college's assistant postgraduate tutors. She is the Grace 2 Professor of English at the university.

Bettina Varwig recognised by the Royal Musical Association

Professor Bettina Varwig (2017) has been awarded the 2025 Dent Medal by the Royal Musical Association. Professor Varwig is a leading scholar of early modern music, with a particular focus on German musical cultures. She edited the OUP volume *Rethinking Bach* and is also an authority on the history and influence of Heinrich Schütz.

Juliet Usher-Smith wins a Pilkington Prize for teaching

Dr Juliet Usher-Smith (1998), Director of Studies in Medicine, has been awarded a Pilkington Prize from the university in recognition of her outstanding teaching and teaching leadership for medical students, postgraduate taught students and postgraduate research students, while at the same time continuing to conduct world-class research.

Emma members recognised in the King's Birthday Honours

We congratulate the following members of our community who have been recognised in the King's Birthday Honours List 2025:

CMG: Edith Heard (Honorary Fellow, 1983)

for services to science and to UK/France relations

OBE: Vicky Davies (1993)

for services to the economy in Northern Ireland

New professorships for Emma members

We are delighted to announce that the General Board has recommended that, with effect from 1 October 2025, professorships be established for each of the following Emma members:

- **Professor Emma Gilby (2003)**, now at Sidney Sussex, assigned to the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics
- **Professor Mathieu Canea (1998)**, now at King's, assigned to the Department of Social Anthropology
- **Professor Ian Craig Willis (1986)**, now at St Catharine's, assigned to the Scott Polar Research Institute

ECMS wraps up year with variety show

In the lead up to May Week, the Emmanuel College Music Society (ECMS) held its end of term concert. Several ECMS groups performed at a particularly well-attended evening event. It began with the ever-popular Emma Jazz, playing some excellent funk and pop arrangements. Next was Emma Brass, with more great arrangements, including *Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go*, as well as some good tunes written especially for brass ensemble.

Finally, the Central Colleges Orchestra rounded off the concert with a Mendelssohn march, Finzi's *A Severn Rhapsody* and Dvořák's *Humoresques*.



Members of ECMS at a recent performance

A glorious afternoon for THE SUPPORTERS' GARDEN PARTY



Andy Bowie (1970)'s band plays on at the Supporters' Garden Party

More than 400 supporters and their guests relaxed in sunshine, shade and the swimming pool at a recent college garden party held to thank them for their recent help.

Although the gardens are extensive, thankfully we are also blessed with plenty of shade, with entertainers and members alike taking shelter from the heat at regular intervals.

In between, an array of activities was on offer for all ages, from talks by Emma members Paul Fellows (1979) and Mary-Ann Ochota (1999) to children's entertainment, a display and exhibition in the Library, a community garden treasure hunt, lawn games, use of the swimming pool and musical entertainment from Andy Bowie (1970) and his jazz quartet, all complemented by delicious food and drink from our catering team.

We thank those who were able to come along and savour the atmosphere of another traditional Emma summer gathering, and acknowledge the continuing generosity of all our supporters.

Celebration for winners of Blues and Half Blues

Just before the end of Easter term, a special dinner took place to celebrate the achievements of 40 Emma students who won a Blue or Half-Blue during the course of the academic year. These prestigious awards date back to the 1860s, when they were initially limited to men's rowing, cricket and athletics, before seeing a huge expansion to many other disciplines over the years, as well as to women's teams. A good example of this expansion came this year since, as well as traditional sports such as rugby and rowing, Emma gained an award for excellence in the field of chess. The Master described the stories of our award winners as 'inspiring and exhausting', and we congratulate them all.

THANK-YOU for telephone campaign

The Master recently caught up with some of our students who were involved in the telephone campaign during the Easter vacation to thank them for their time. The campaign resulted in around £306 000-worth of pledges to the college, and we thank our members for their time and generosity in helping maintain this valued connection across the generations of the Emma family.



Some of the callers for the 2025 telephone campaign

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Emmanuel Society London Drinks and Emma Entrepreneurs Networking

Tuesday 16 September 2025, 5.00pm (entrepreneurs networking) and 6.00pm (main drinks event), Bunghole Cellars, Davy's at Holborn, 57 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6DT

All members are invited to the regular London Drinks occasion, the perfect opportunity to catch up with friends new and old. Preceding the main drinks event, in the same venue, is a networking get-together for those interested in entrepreneurship, which must be booked ahead of time.

Gathering of Members 1967–69

Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 September 2025, Emmanuel College

Our next Gathering of Members, the first of two in September, sees members who matriculated in 1967, 1968 and 1969 return to college for a reunion weekend.

Gathering of Members 1970–72

Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 September 2025, Emmanuel College

The Gathering of Members sees members who matriculated in 1970, 1971 and 1972 return to college for a reunion weekend.

A visit to the Institute of Astronomy

Saturday 1 November 2025, Madingley Road, Cambridge, CB3 0HA

A guided tour and lecture of the Cambridge Institute of Astronomy by Paul Fellows (1979), Chair of the Cambridge Astronomical Association.

Emmanuel Society Dinner in York

Friday 7 November 2025, The Merchant Taylors' Hall, Aldwark, York, YO1 7BX

The Emmanuel Society invites members of the College to join the Master, Sarah Bendall, Development Director and friends old and new for a convivial evening of catching up on all things Emmanuel and beyond.

Messiah from Scratch

Saturday 15 November 2025, Emmanuel College

Members are invited to enjoy a sing-and-play-through of Handel's Messiah 'from scratch' (no rehearsal!) in the college chapel with Graham Walker, Director of Music, the chapel choir and members of the Emmanuel College Music Society. Followed by refreshments. Singers and players are welcome, as well as brave listeners!

Emmanuel Society AGM

Friday 21 November 2025, Robert Gardner Room, Emmanuel College

The AGM of the Emmanuel Society for 2025 takes place on Friday 21 November. This meeting is open to all members of the college. Come along to hear about your alumni society's year in review, with the option to dine afterwards.

London Carol service at Temple Church

Monday 8 December 2025, Temple Church, London

Welcome the festive season at the college's annual Advent service at Temple Church, where you will join members, students, staff and the choir in joyful song. Followed by refreshments.

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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'Alumni of Emmanuel College' group page