



THE EMMANUEL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

It's a quite extraordinary time. Most of us around the world are in various states of lockdown as a result of COVID-19, living our lives in new ways and doing our best to stay safe and well. Like every other organisation, our primary concern at Emmanuel is for all members of our community, wherever in the world we are. We send our warmest wishes to everyone, and we are doing our best to keep you in touch with how things are at Emmanuel.

A small number of undergraduate and graduate students and a few resident Fellows are still living in college. This includes those who were isolating when the lockdown began, those who could not get home and those who have no settled home outside Emmanuel. We have a skeleton staff supporting them with basic food and other services, but college is, above all else, quiet.

It is also spring! The gardens are looking gorgeous, and after a long, wet winter everything is green, fresh and beautiful. See the pictures in this newsletter for a bit of Emma inspiration.

Easter Term has begun, but it is a strange and unusual term. All teaching is virtual, including lectures and supervisions, and examinations, where they are held (we are prioritising



finalists) will be open book assessments. And of course there will be no summer events, garden parties, May Balls or even graduation ceremonies. It's tough on our students, but they are all being brilliant. There's lots of online communication between us all, and I have already judged bake-off and Easter egg painting competitions!

We are a community that is spread across the world, with one thing in common: Emmanuel. Our experiences here, and our affection for the place and our people are an important part of who we are, and I hope will help sustain us all for as long as is needed. We will continue to post information on the website and to use social media and other means to keep you all in touch.

Until we can meet again, I'm sending our love and best wishes, and the hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

With warmest wishes

Dame Fiona Reynolds, Master

COLLEGE NEWS

In the Development Office, we are working hard to ensure our members can keep in touch with the college and each other, and have been devising online activities for everyone to get involved with. We have created a new weekly email called *Emma connects*, where we're aiming to bring interesting and thought-provoking activities to provide some light relief as we all do our best in this challenging time. If you haven't been receiving emails from us and would like to do so, please contact development-office@emma.cam.ac.uk.

Whilst we are unlikely to be able to meet in person for a while, we're here for you all as valued members of the Emma community. If you would like to chat please do get in touch with us via email at development-office@emma.cam.ac.uk or leave us a message on the development office phone on 01223 330476 and we will give you a call back.

We hope you all stay safe and well.

Very best wishes from
Sarah, Emily, Emma, Gideon, Holly, Linda, Lizzie,
Nina and Samantha

GIVING DAY

As a demonstration of the fantastic spirit of our community, our first-ever Giving Day took place on 10–11 March, and we're still feeling overwhelmed by how many of you joined in on this really exciting and novel day for the college.

As you might have seen, the day did fantastically well, raising over £146,000 from more than 500 members of the extended college community. It is a timely example of how we can succeed in connecting digitally regardless of location and towards a common goal. **We wanted to let you know that one of the first uses of the monies raised will be to support students who are in financial need because of the COVID-19 crisis.** Whether you made a donation to *Emma gives* or helped by spreading the word, we are extremely grateful for your support; it will help us make a significant difference to the lives of our students in these uncertain and challenging times.



As part of the Giving Day, we held a cake sale that cheered up coffee time for staff.

RESEARCH INTO COVID-19

Many members of our college community – Fellows, students, staff and Emma members – are helping with the efforts to understand COVID-19, find a solution to the current crisis, treat those infected with the virus, and look after the vulnerable. Many are on the front line and the Master says, 'At Emma, we are more proud of you than we can say. I expect it is tough, scary and may be dangerous, but your patients have never needed you more. We salute you and send our warmest good wishes to you. Please keep in touch, and know that we are all thinking of you, and are ready to welcome you back just as soon as it's possible for you to return.'

At the time of writing, there is debate about wearing face masks. The first Chinese person to get a degree in medicine from Cambridge, Wu Lien-Teh, came up to Emma in 1896. In 1910, he was posted to Harbin in north Manchuria by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to lead a medical team to tackle an outbreak of pneumonic plague in the area. An article by Christos Lynteris, 'Plague masks: the visual emergence of anti-epidemic personal protection equipment' in *Medical Anthropology* 2018 explains that Dr Wu realised that the disease was transmitted directly between humans in an airborne manner, overturning the theory that the disease was spread by rats and their fleas. Thus he promoted the development of a face mask, which he claimed was his own invention, and the first time such an epidemic containment measure was attempted. Dr Wu's mask was similar to surgical masks, but had more protective layers and a more complex tying process, so

that it didn't slip while operating outside in winter-time Manchuria. He described it as follows:

This consists of two layers of gauze enclosing a flat oblong piece of absorbent cotton 6 inches by 4 inches. It can be easily made by cutting the usual surgical gauze (9 inches wide), as supplied from the shops, into strips, each measuring 3 feet in length. Each strip is then doubled lengthwise so as to contain in the middle a flat piece of cotton wool measuring 4 inches by 6 inches. At either end of the gauze two cuts, each measuring 15 inches, are made. Thus turning the pad into a three-tail gauze bandage, with the central piece of wool for covering the respiratory entrance. The upper tail of one side should be passed round the side of the head above the ear and tied to the other corresponding tail. The lowermost tail should in a similar manner be passed under the ear and tied to the one on the other side, while the middle tail should be passed over the crown of the head, so as to fix the pad and prevent it from slipping down the neck (Wu, L.-T. 1926 *Treatise on Pneumonic Plague*. Geneva, Switzerland: League of Nations, 393–394).



When Dr Wu was a student at Emmanuel, his mother made a bead panel in traditional Peranakan style. The design was based on the Emma lion, but it became a Chinese Foo dog with a flaming pearl. It can be seen in the Peranakan Museum in Singapore.

COLLEGE HISTORY

We have been asked when the college and university last closed, and have been looking at our records for what happened in 1665–66 during the plague, which was virulent in Cambridge in two phases, with a lull in spring 1666.

The colleges were largely empty, including Emmanuel, which was just as well, as St Andrew's Parish was the one in Cambridge that had the most deaths, 139 out of a total of 920.

As is the case now, we looked after those who couldn't leave, and spent £61 9s 'in time of the sickness', mainly on food for the sizar (poor students who earned money from waiting at tables to fund their education) and servants. Again, as now, a laundry service continued to operate, and Mrs Lamb was paid 4s for washing. Three Fellows, a BA and a scholar 'that stay'd in coll ... for 20 weeks' received an allowance.



In the seventeenth century, students were admitted throughout the year rather than just in October, and it seems that there were no new arrivals during the height of the plague in 1665, though a few arrived afterwards.

At this time Isaac Newton went home to Woolsthorpe Manor in Lincolnshire, and later said that these enforced absences were the most intellectually fruitful of his whole life. What will come out of the current time, we wonder?



BOAT-NAMING CEREMONY

The Boat Club christened three new Fours on 22 February (the Rev'd Tomos Reed, David Sprague and ECBCA) with the help of the Master.

BOAT RACE

The historic clash between the Cambridge and Oxford Boat Clubs was due to take place on 29 March. For the first time ever, both the CUWBC President, Larkin Sayre and the CUBC President, Freddie Davidson hail from our college, so it is a particular sadness for them and us that the event could not take place. We hope to see more Emmanuel College students able to take to the water again in future races.

MA CONGREGATION

For the first time ever (we think), Emma students were awarded their MAs at a University ceremony hosted in Emmanuel Chapel. This unprecedented event occurred because of a threat by Extinction Rebellion to disrupt proceedings at the Senate House.



EVENTS

In recent weeks, we have been holding several events online.

FELLOW'S TALK

Our Fellow Nigel Spivey gave a talk on YouTube Live on 30 April entitled *A World of Make-Believe: The Art of Visual Storytelling*, which can be watched here www.youtube.com/channel/UCu8E6e1GnI9S8rZL3ex8BGg

BURNABY RECITAL

Emma members got together to contribute to a virtual Burnaby recital on 1 May. The performances by Lydia Abell [2011] (viola), John Bryden ([1965] piano), Peter Foggitt (Director of Chapel Music), Richard Latham ([1997], baritone) and Katie Lodge ([2014], trumpet) are available at www.youtube.com/channel/UCu8E6e1GnI9S8rZL3ex8BGg

FUTURE EVENTS

DR AMY ORBEN: DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS IN THE AGE OF LOCKDOWN – TUESDAY 19 MAY

Dr Amy Orben, a Research Fellow, will be talking about her study on how digital communication is being used by the UK population to mitigate the negative consequences of enforced social isolation on 19 May at 12.30pm. To watch, please go to our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/channel/UCu8E6e1GnI9S8rZL3ex8BGg



LUCINDA HAWKSLEY ONLINE – THURSDAY 21 MAY

Lucinda Hawksley will be providing an online activity on 21 May in place of the tour of the National Portrait Gallery.

Further details can be found at www.emma.cam.ac.uk/members/events

EMMA & EXETER: CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF WOMEN

We are hoping to rearrange this event, so do express an interest in attending.

We are asking female members to contribute to a digital book created to celebrate this milestone. Further details can be found at www.emma.cam.ac.uk/members/events

EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST ON THE ATTACHED FORM OR ONLINE AT: www.emma.cam.ac.uk/members/events



LEEDS DINNER – 11 JUNE 2021

This dinner has been rearranged for next year, when we hope to see members based in the north of England and the Midlands for dinner with the Master, complete with a joust demonstration. Do express an interest in attending.

In the meantime, find out more about jousting at www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwLqWxCLMgw and www.youtube.com/watch?v=EiloT87x8K4

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EMMANUEL SOCIETY SUMMER DRINKS

Looking further ahead, the Emmanuel Society is thinking about how best to hold its annual Summer Drinks in London.

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Careers Database

Join more than 800 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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