



# THE EMMANUEL NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

Hello everyone, and I hope you are keeping safe and well. Entering a second lockdown was not exactly Plan A for this term, but as I write we have established another new regime and are learning how to adjust, once again. Continual adjustment is, in fact, the Covid-19 story.

On the whole this term has gone better than we could ever have dreamt. All our students are in households of various sizes, and are being taught by a mixture of online (all lectures) and face-to-face (supervisions where possible) techniques. We managed matriculation (you should see the photo!), including dinners, and formal halls have continued all term. Zooming is second nature for us all. The library is open, there's a marquee in the Paddock, and our beautiful gardens are an invaluable place for exercise and contact with nature. Until lockdown v2 the



bar was open on a take-away basis, many sports were possible, and there were regular chapel services. Sadly these have had to stop, at least for now.

We are part of Cambridge University's asymptomatic testing programme, which means we have a much better handle on what's going on than in many other universities. That knowledge is incredibly helpful. For the first month we had very few cases; now we have a few more, and it's clear that when infections spread it's because the rules have been breached.

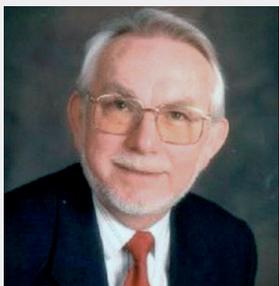
So while I'm very proud of everyone's efforts, as always the price of liberty is eternal vigilance. It's tough to stick to the rules, but for everyone's benefit that's what we're doing. As I write we are heading towards the end of term and a phased departure. We can't forget that in this strangest of terms we are more than ever a community dependent on each other.

No-one can predict what lies ahead, but I'm incredibly proud that we're making this term work, and enormously grateful to everyone – our Bursar, Senior Tutor, the porters, catering, household, maintenance, library, office and gardens staff, as well as all the Fellows and students – who together are making it possible.

Have a lovely Christmas and New Year, and we hope to see you in 2021.

**Dame Fiona Reynolds**  
Master

## FELLOWS' NEWS



Last month saw Dr Alan Baker mark 50 years since he was elected a Fellow in November 1970, our first Fellow in Geography. In 1999, on retiring from his University post, he became a

Life Fellow and has remained active in research while also lecturing on the historical geography of France to classes of the University of the Third Age in Cambridge. This year also marks a personal celebration for Alan, as he and Sandra have had their 60th wedding anniversary. Whilst their trip to Paris to celebrate has unfortunately been postponed because of the pandemic, with any luck they'll be able to return there next year, when he will also be releasing his book *The Personality of Paris, 1789–1914: A Tale of Two Cities and Many Villages*. Congratulations to Alan from all at Emma!



## EMMA ENABLES

### *Site Handover and Breaking Ground*



In our Summer newsletter we announced that Cambridge City Council had given planning permission for the large-scale building work that forms part of our *Emma enables* project. Preparation work continued throughout the summer, the site was handed over to the construction company Gilbert-Ash at the start of November, and we broke ground on 9 December. We are fortunate that in these strange and uncertain times we

have been able to continue with our plans to develop the southern boundary of the college site, which will provide us with spaces for social and communal life alongside accommodation and teaching facilities. The start of this project signals the beginning of a new era in the life of the college and brings us one step closer to our goal of bringing together all members of our Emma community. To keep up-to-date with the building work please visit [www.emma.cam.ac.uk/about/conservation](http://www.emma.cam.ac.uk/about/conservation)

MARCUS GINNS



## ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN ORDAINED

David Bagnall, the College's Assistant Chaplain, was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Ely in a socially distanced service on Sunday 27 September. David, who is doing research for a PhD on the Church in Rwanda with Professor David Maxwell, is also attached to Great St Mary's, the University Church.

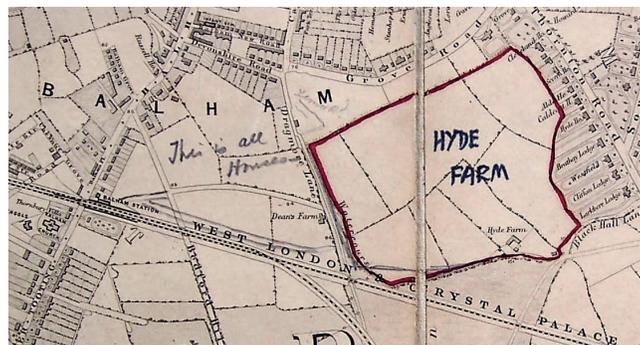
## FACT OR FICTION?

### *An occasional series examining the truth of some Emmanuel traditions*

#### Hyde Farm, Surrey: Emmanuel's 'Dry' Estate

In 1587 Emmanuel College received a bequest of £440 in the will of Joyce Frankland, a friend of the college's Founder, Sir Walter Mildmay. The college invested the money in agricultural land in Surrey, including a property then called Hyde Field Farm, near Balham. By 1900 the farm was almost completely surrounded by housing (with the exception of its southern boundary, which adjoined Tooting Common) and shortly afterwards was itself leased by the college to builders, who developed it as a residential neighbourhood. Although the new estate contained several shops and a school, it was not furnished with a public house or an off-licence, and there appears to be a widely held belief that the college insisted the estate be 'dry', because of its Puritan ethos. Given that Emmanuel had shed its last vestiges of Puritanism well before the nineteenth century, this explanation might seem somewhat improbable, but could there be any truth in the story?

To find out, we must turn to the Bursary correspondence files. In 1900, when the development of Hyde Farm was in the early stages of planning, Emmanuel was approached by a company of brewers who wished to erect a public house on the land. The brewers' solicitor assured the college that 'a respectable fully licensed house... would be a great boon to pleasure seekers and others using Tooting Bec common'. The proposed site for the pub was on Emmanuel Road, facing the north-eastern corner of the common. The college cautiously agreed that it was indeed 'desirable that some provision of the kind should be made having regard to the large number of houses which will ultimately



be built'; nevertheless, the Bursar, J B Peace, was mindful of the college's responsibilities and reputation as freeholder, and was anxious to avoid the premises getting 'a bad name through improper control'. He therefore stipulated that the brewers' lease should contain a clause prohibiting gaming and rioting, and an agreement that the tenancy would be forfeit if a complaint of any nature were made to the police. The brewers' solicitor, in high dudgeon, replied: 'Anything more unreasonable we cannot conceive and of course no Builder or Brewer could dream of entering into such a covenant'. Since neither side was prepared to give ground the matter dragged on fitfully for several years, ending with a final burst of acrimony in 1905, when the brewers' solicitor accused Emmanuel of behaving like a 'bargaining buttermilk and not a historical college'. The Bursar retorted that he much regretted having been 'misled by your personal assurance into urging the College to reopen the matter'.

No further negotiations were possible after this exchange, but all was not lost as far as local would-be tipplers were concerned, for in 1907 the college agreed that one of the shops that had been built near the junction of Emmanuel Road and Radbourne Road could be converted to an off-licence. This plan never came to fruition, though, because the tenant got cold feet when he learned that the promised temperance legislation in the next Sessions of Parliament made it likely that 'no fresh licenses will be granted whatever'. So that was that, as far as the sale of alcohol on the Hyde Farm Estate (as it is still known) was concerned. Although the surviving correspondence makes it clear that the college had no objection to a public house *per se*, its insistence on strict conditions meant that the idea never got off the ground, and to that extent there is a kernel of truth in the story of Emmanuel's 'dry' estate.

## EMMA BLOG

[www.emma.cam.ac.uk/members/blog](http://www.emma.cam.ac.uk/members/blog)

If you haven't seen our blog please do take a look. We are updating this regularly with contributions from both Emma members and Fellow

#### Recent posts include:

- Vane Glory – College Archivist, Amanda Goode
- William Daniell's *A Voyage round Great Britain* – Keeper of Rare Books, Professor Barry Windeatt

**Amanda Goode**  
College Archivist



## EMMA CONNECTS

We are continuing to send our E-newsletter *Emma connects* on a fortnightly basis, with updates on the college, Fellows', members' and students' news, research information and activities to take enjoy. If you haven't been receiving this and would like to do so, please send an email to [development-office@emma.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development-office@emma.cam.ac.uk) and we'll add you to the list.

### *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.

### *Keep in Touch*

We always treat your personal information with care and according to your wishes. A full description of the way in which data are used, together with your rights in this respect, is available at [www.emma.cam.ac.uk/members/data](http://www.emma.cam.ac.uk/members/data)

To ask us to change the way we use your data, please get in touch with the Development Office.

## EVENTS

We are planning several online events for the new year: they will be announced in *Emma connects* and on the Members' section of the website, where there'll be information on how to book.

Despite the challenges of lockdown, we have been fortunate in maintaining a full calendar of events, albeit virtually. An advantage has been that more members have been able to take part in them, and to attend from all over the world.

### Highlights have included:

- Lucinda Hawksley providing a virtual tour of the Dickens Museum in September
- A discussion with Fellow, Dr Jonathan Aldred on his *Guardian*, article 'This pandemic has exposed the uselessness of orthodox economics', in October
- 3 Book Group sessions, with the October discussion featuring Andrew Taylor (1970)'s *'The King's Evil'* and attended by Andrew himself.
- Conversations on Zoom with members in Australasia, Brussels & Chicago
- Member, Janet Gough (1980) giving a talk entitled 'Cathedrals, safe places to do risky things' in November
- The first in our series of *Emma Enables Big Conversations* – How can we build for the future? in November

We look forward to seeing you at more events in 2021!

### *Follow Us*



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