



## President's Report, December 2017

The Society has had another busy year with its monthly lunch schedule providing food for thought as well as bellies. We saw the biggest crowd for years attend a talk by Sir Andrew Davis of the MSO, we learned about the future of air travel, about how insects see and about how retailers will survive the assault of Amazon – to name but a few. Thanks as always to Peter Baines for organising and to Jeremy Adams for making use of the Savage Club possible as a venue.

This year's annual dinner saw Trinity Hall Master, Rev Dr Jeremy Morris, give a fascinating and candid talk about the workings of the university today, stimulating an active Q&A session from the packed dining room. The Melbourne Club as always proved an excellent venue.

The Boat Race Dinner was a particular hit this year, being opened by Cambridge alumna and comedienne Alice Frazer and race commentary provided by Kris Coventry who rowed for the Blues in 2003/04. Thanks as always to Peter Adams for organising a splendid event.

Turning to sporting jousts with Oxford, The Henry Gordon-Clark Trophy for the best golf team still remains in Cambridge hands, as does the Oxford trophy as the light blue team continues to dominate on the fairway.

We have had drinks throughout the year with our Oxford friends, and seemed to get the formula nailed at the end of the year with a great night at Jimmy Watsons on Lygon Street.

Working closely with the university alumni office has been a real focus this year, culminating in July's Global Cambridge Event at the State Library where Prof Eilis Ferran, Pro VC for Institutional and International Relations introduced speakers Hugh Hunt and Pepe Clark to speak on climate change mitigation.

It is a pleasure to report a healthy number of new members joining the society throughout the year, meaning our membership is now in the high two hundreds.

I would like to acknowledge the Committee's continued dedication towards our diverse membership, and in particular our Secretary, David Rees and Treasurer, Jerry Platt, for keeping the administrative cogs turning.

I would also like to thank everyone for their involvement in the Society and on behalf of the Committee wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Chris Briggs

