

EASTER TERM 2020

# THE GOAT POST



# Editor's Note

*For the first time ever, many of our international students will be reading this abroad and for some finalists, Fitz might feel like an era that's been and gone all too fast. As this issue isn't your usual Goat Post, I find Kyle Anderson's very apocalyptic front cover fitting for these times.*

*So wherever you are, this issue sends you lots of love and warm wishes from Fitz and fingers crossed future editions can follow this more sustainable, digital format.*

*Billy love,  
Joanna  
(Editor)*



*Please enjoy my shoddy editing and presentation. I'm sorry if anyone is missing an ear or a body part...Microsoft Word you are a beauty.*



# A NOTE FROM ANDREW SALKELD

## JCR PRESIDENT

*Last year, The Goat Post marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fitz's foundation. The 152<sup>nd</sup> year of Fitzwilliam College is probably the strangest in its history, with a term of no return for the undergraduate body. Fortunately, our strong sense of community, which we are so proud of, stands firm. We might be scattered around the world at the moment but our sense of friendship, of togetherness and of Billy Pride remains strong.*

*Enjoy a classic Goat Post,  
Andrew.*







By Tom Andre



# Fitz Hedgehog Updates

By Alexandra Nicolin



**Above:** Alexandra Nicolin (JCR Green Officer) and Steve Kidger (Head Gardener) collecting the Hedgehog Friendly Campus Bronze Award

**Below:** Fitzwilliam's resident Hedgehogs on the day they were introduced to Fitz in March



From its sporting talent to its legacy of making Cambridge more accessible, Fitz has a lot to be proud of. Our decision, last year, to be the first Cambridge College to take part in the Hedgehog Friendly Campus Scheme is another achievement we can add to our long list. The award, funded by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, aims to raise awareness of the endangered species in an attempt to increase their numbers.



So, why do we need to protect Britain's favourite mammal? As well as being adorable, there are now less than a million wild hedgehogs left in the UK, as their numbers have considerably plummeted over the last two decades. Hedgehogs have declined by half in the countryside and by a third in towns and cities since 1995. Providing a habitable environment in urban areas, like Cambridge, is increasingly more important due to the agricultural industrialisation that is taking place in the countryside. Naturally, we decided to do our bit.

Fitzwilliam's gardens have become release sites for hedgehogs, where they can recover and live after being discharged from the hedgehog hospital at Shepreth Wildlife Park. In May 2019, two hedgehogs were released into the hedgehog hotels by the First Undergraduate Statue and are still happily living in the grounds. Our gardens have been transformed by Steve Kidger and all our hard-working gardeners over the last couple of years to become hedgehog havens by not only building the homes, but by also adding feeding stations and escape ramps for them to climb out of our ditches. The hard work put in by the workgroup, made up of fellows, staff and students, led to Fitzwilliam achieving a Bronze Award, but more importantly, we've managed to create a safe place for our resident hedgehogs to live and for other hogs to join them.

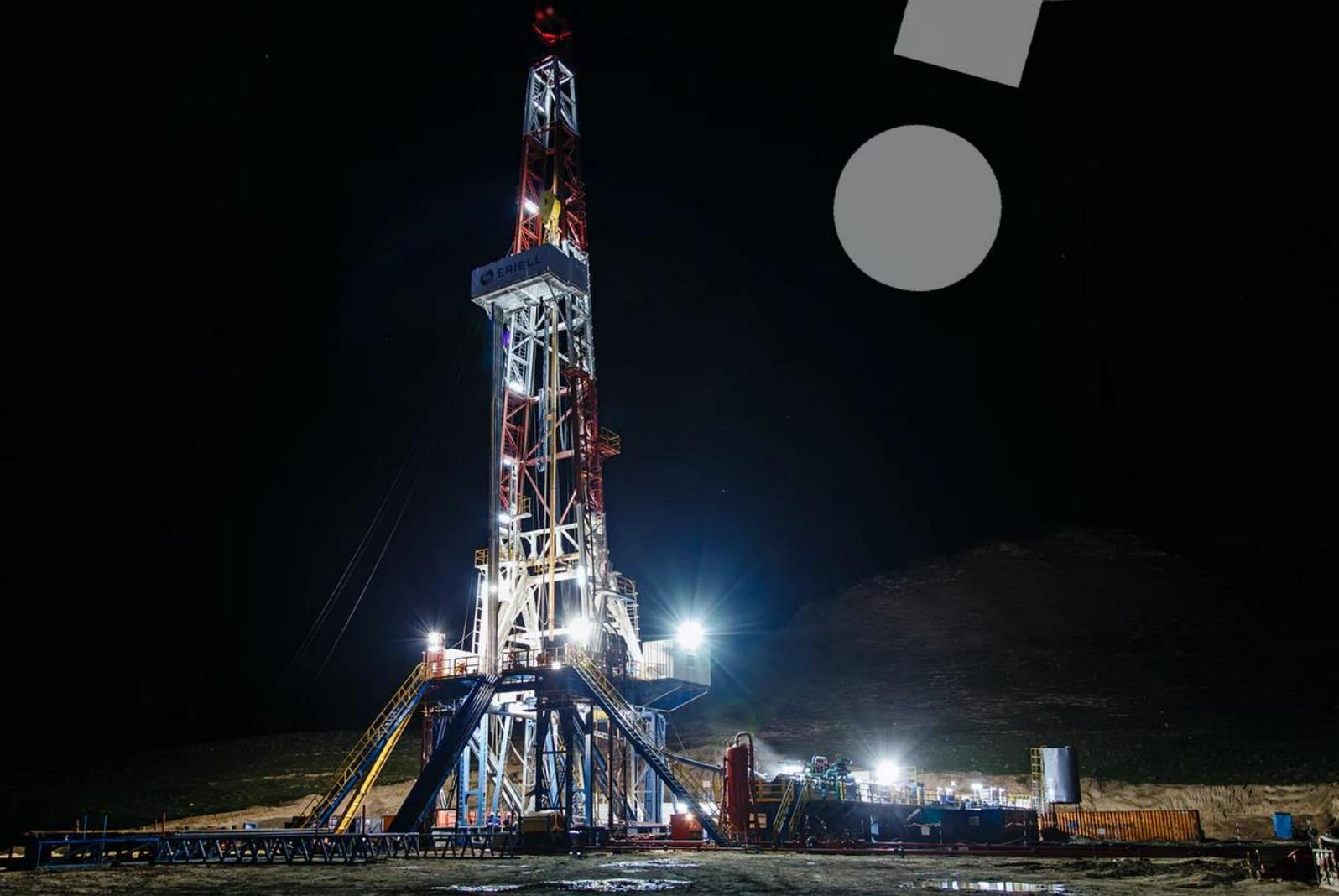
With our sights set on achieving a Silver Award, we have many more initiatives ready to go next year. We plan to extend the hedgehog corridor network by linking Murray Edwards' and Fitzwilliam's gardens with the aim of hedgehogs being able to freely roam around hill colleges and feed across the

the entirety of the area. Unfortunately, Hedgehog Day, a celebration of the college's environmental achievements filled with Pimm's and a late-night hedgehog survey, had to be postponed this year. Hopefully this will be added to the 2021 calendar, along with Fitz getting the Silver Award certificate.

*If you want to help us achieve the next accreditation, organise Hedgehog Day or be more involved with Fitz gardens then join our workgroup (email [an549@cam.ac.uk](mailto:an549@cam.ac.uk)). If you'd like to make a difference at home and make your garden hedgehog friendly there are lots of simple things you can do like putting out a dish of water, especially during hot weather, leaving a natural area in your garden with logs, long grass and leaves for hedgehogs to nest, and building a hedgehog home. Remember, any hedgehog seen out in the daytime is in trouble so call your local hedgehog rescue!*



# Divestment



# A long way to go...

By Ellie Fox



At the end of Michaelmas term, Fitz proudly announced its new sustainable investment policy, highlighting its ambitious commitment to ESG (environment, society and governance) principles, which are a mark of how socially responsible an organisation's investments are. But let's be clear, whilst Fitz labelled this policy as strongly progressive, this is NOT divestment from the fossil fuel or arms industries.

It is important to consider what the substance of this new policy actually means for ethical investing, as well as contextualising it within the broader divestment debate within the University. Whilst I do not doubt the well-meaning aims, and truly commend the steps taken to consult members at all levels of the college in developing this policy, if Fitz truly seeks to not fund some of the socially and environmentally dangerous industries on the planet, then it has a long way to go as far as the management of its £75 million+ is concerned.

Firstly, a brief introduction to divestment itself. Divestment is when a company or organisation sells assets and funds that it holds in certain industries that are deemed to be socially or environmentally detrimental, or too financially risky. Perhaps the most successful example of this is the campaign to divest from Apartheid South Africa which played an important role in turning the global tide of opinion against the apartheid regime. Today, fund managers who wish to move money away from industries that endanger planet and its people can invest in funds such as ex Tobacco Index Funds, or indeed ex Fossil Fuel Index Funds, which explicitly exclude investments in these businesses. Indeed, Fitz already has holdings in ex Tobacco.

So, what are some of key points of this ..Fitz's 'ambitious' new policy?

It asks that investment decisions consider:

- Protection of the global environment, its climate and its biodiversity including the reduction and future elimination of fossil fuel exploration and production
- Promotion of human rights, including but not limited to the equality of gender, race and sexuality
- Promotion of good business ethics and good employment practices

It will not invest directly and will ..reasonably minimise indirect investments ..in:

- Producers of high impact fossil fuels (thermal coal, oil sands, shale oil and shale gas)
- Tobacco manufacturers
- Manufacturers of civilian firearms, controversial and nuclear weapons.

A couple of important points here. Firstly, the only thing Fitz is directly invested in is the property it owns in Cambridge, so saying that it will not invest directly in certain harmful industries is somewhat of a moot point. Suggesting otherwise is grossly overstating effectiveness of what Fitz is doing, since it will also not be directly investing in rubber ducks, sheep farming or cupcakes, in case you were wondering.

In light of this, suggesting that it 'will reasonably minimise indirect investments' in fossil fuels, tobacco and certain weapons is telling of an unwillingness to commit to profit from these sectors, and Fitz still holds shares in these industries. Furthermore, I'd like to draw attention to the fact that only 'high impact fossil fuels' are excluded. This means that most oil and natural gas ventures are still on the cards; I'm unsure fund managers hope to contribute to 'the reduction and future exploration of fossil fuel exploration and production' if its financial gains depend upon these industries remaining operational and profitable.

The response to this new policy has been mixed. Whilst often positively received within the college, it has drawn criticism from campaign groups across the university. I asked what Andrew Salkeld, the JCR president (and last year's JCR Treasurer) made of the policy and he said:



**"Despite not involving a 100% divestment from the entire fossil fuel industry, the policy is certainly progressive. The positive selection of high ESG scoring funds and divestment from the least ethical equities ensures that Fitz's endowment, critical to our education and hardship funding, is invested ethically"**

**"The JCR is glad to see improving communications with College about the investments, which will prove valuable in keeping the policy aligned with current issues".**

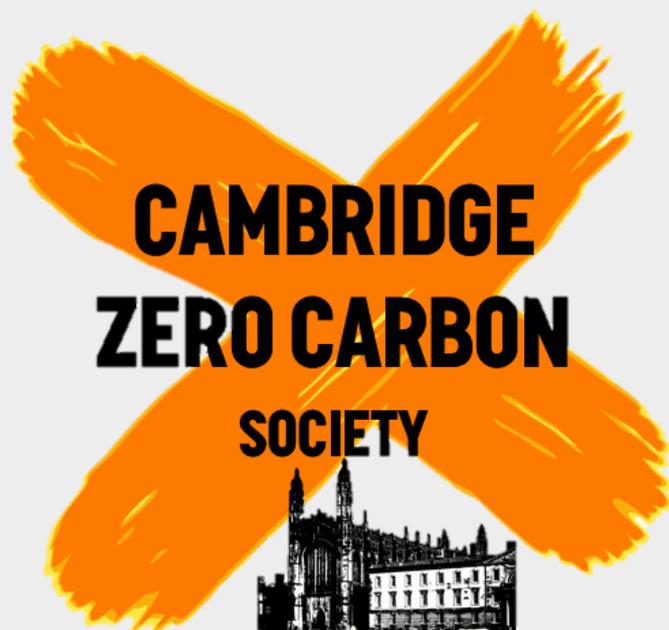
In the initial press release back in November, the Master, Dame Sally Morgan, said:

**"the college is committed to a forward thinking investment strategy... we aim to keep improving the ESG quality of our investments as the investment market develops".**



However, strongly worded criticism came from Cambridge Zero Carbon Society, tenacious climate justice campaigners who fight for divestment at the university level. In a statement released on Facebook, they said that the policy:

**"does not come close to isolating and damaging the economic foundations of the companies most responsible for climate breakdown. The 'commitments' they have made are vague, unambitious, non-binding and in no way reflective of the severity of the climate crisis we face."**



These are polarised opinions to say the least. As one of the JCR's two Green Officers, my opinion falls somewhat between the two sides. I agree with Andrew that the strong level of communication with College about the investment is something we can genuinely be proud of. The JCR and MCR presidents were consulted when drawing up the new policy, as were fellows and alumni. Broader opinions were heard from methods ranging from surveys to debates. I hope to see this level of engagement continue, since democratic and informed discussions are essential to tackling climate change to bring about a just future, addressing other existing inequalities regardless of scale.

However, I am saddened that despite this effort, we weren't able to come up with something *truly progressive*, following in the footsteps of Clare Hall and Emma who have fully divested from fossil fuels, or even Jesus and Downing who have divested partially. Beyond Cambridge, half of the UK's 154 Universities are divesting. As I write this, Oxford have just announced that they too will divest, restricting investment in fossil fuel exploration and extraction with immediate and ending future investments in funds primarily invested in fossil fuels. If Fitz were to make a more than piecemeal commitment to divestment, then it would be in good company.

The reasons to divest from fossil fuels are numerous and I cannot do justice to them here. Briefly though, there really is a strong ethical, environmental and economic case. Fossil fuel companies show a total disregard for people and the environment. Shell's oil extraction in the Niger delta has seen the area turned into a post-apocalyptic looking wasteland due to poorly maintained extraction infrastructure, endangering the health of all people and species who live there. The company was complicit with government suppression of the Ogoni People's anti-shell protests, which eventually hanged nine activists. The BP Deepwater Horizon Spill which decimated wildlife and livelihoods in the Gulf of Mexico could well happen again, there have been next to no changes put in place to

ensure oil rigs are any safer. These are not outliers but just a couple of the continued spills and human rights abuses at the hands of the fossil fuel industry that have been going on for decades.

The financial case is also becoming increasingly clear. Whilst all sections of the economy are struggling under the strain of coronavirus, the recent fall of US oil prices to  $-\$40/\text{barrel}$  is a telling sign of the industry's heightened vulnerability to external shocks, particularly as its success is so strongly related to the state of financial markets, another risky and shock prone sector. As the world inevitably continues its transition towards alternative energy sources, the risk of fossil fuels investments becoming stranded assets is very real; when this happens, it is the investors that will be hurt. And to those who would argue that shareholder engagement is one of the best ways to get the fossil fuel industry to clean up its act, there is no chance of fundamentally changing a company's business model so that they ditch fossil fuels, the exact resource they were built around. Just 1% of Big Oil's business is in renewable energy, their commitments are purely tokenistic.

The consequences of not reaching the IPCC's target of limiting climate warming to  $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  or even  $2^{\circ}\text{C}$  by 2030 are grim. Reaching this target is incompatible with the fossil fuel industry. Missing this target is incompatible with the lives and livelihoods of millions of people, and the viability of ecosystems all over the world. It is the most vulnerable people and places who are being hit first and hardest by climate change, not in the future, but right now.

Fitzwilliam College is an elite institution and it is our duty to not be complicit in worsening these inequalities. Climate justice is social justice, we need to be on the right side of history and commit to full divestment from fossil fuels, before it's too late.

**DIVESTMENT DIVESTMENT DIVESTMENT**

# Reminiscing Fitz



# Side Note: What the safety net really feels like



# A Farewell to Fitz

Originally published in **VARSlTY**

By Poppy Blackshaw and Ellie Brain

The phrase 'time flies when you're having fun' permeates the undergraduate experience at Fitzwilliam College. And yet, for many of us, the abrupt end to our Cambridge experience has come as no less of a shock. However, whilst these last few weeks may have been dominated by an overwhelming sense of uncertainty, they have also provided for a period of introspection, in which all the things which make this college so great, and which make it so hard to say goodbye, have become even clearer.

It is no coincidence that Fitz has a reputation for being one of Cambridge's friendliest colleges; whilst architecturally it may appear cold and imposing, the people at the heart of its close-knit community are warm and welcoming. It is a place with a distinct lack of hierarchy, where you can find yourself eating pancakes with the Master on a Sunday morning, or counting amongst your closest friends those from other year groups. It is a place where you tell yourself you are only popping into the cafe for five minutes but end up staying for the whole day, and where Wednesday cindies tickets sell out quicker than Glastonbury – in 19 seconds to be precise!

But for us finalists of Fitzwilliam – arguably one of the closest year groups the college has ever seen – the last three years have served as some of the most formative of our lives. Never ones to shy away from socialisation, our freshers week began in true Fitz fashion with the dreaded 'speed friending', a house 'party' featuring a cardboard cutout of Pitbull and movement en masse down Castle Hill to Sunday Life: a tradition which continues to this day.

And who could forget the culmination of it all: Fitz Up Look Sharp. Who would have guessed that, in the years to follow, this bi-annual event would get messier and messier, and that we would revel in recounting the

dramas of the night before? After grappling with 9am lectures, supervisions, and the lack of ovens in E and F block, we soon found ourselves singing at the top of our lungs (and very out of tune) at Fitzmas, attending countless birthday formals, and (again) moving en masse to Jesus May Ball.

Our second year brought with it new challenges, but also a newfound sense of independence as we scrambled out to college houses littered across the Huntington and Oxford Road. A firm reminder from our Head Porter that these houses were strictly *not* to be used for house parties appeared to have the opposite effect. The newly elected Fitz JCR made waves throughout college, whether it be in regard to the scholars ballot or laundry reform. It was the year in which many of us came into our own, fell in love, became sporting heroes, performers or incredible academics and cemented life long friendships. We saw college transformed into an 'exhibition' for the Winter Ball, and we said goodbye to the legendary Nicky Padfield, as she stepped down as College Master.

The start of our final year brought with it a renewed sense of determination, new commitments to going out less and spending more time in the Olisa (a vow which likely only lasted for a week at most), and a very-nearly-successful RON presidential campaign. Thousands more hash browns were consumed

at brunch, our billy pride continued to grow, and Fitz bops (in an endearing way) remained completely and utterly tragic.

Whilst in the coming days and weeks we might feel inclined to focus on the final term that never was, now, more than ever, it is important to not lose sight of those wonderful moments that made the last two and a half years so memorable: the roar of the Fitz Firm as it cheered its team on to yet *another* coppers victory, those endless summer evenings spent on the Grove lawn, and even those 2am Olisa Library crises.

So, despite the sense of loss we may all understandably be feeling right now, there is much to be proud of, and our time at Fitz will stay with us forever. Although the time has now come to say our goodbyes to so many talented and intelligent people, these will be short lived, for there is no doubt we will come flocking back for the many Winter Balls and Reunion Weekends to come. After all, whilst, to the rest of Cambridge, Fitz may be no more than the little college on top of the hill, to us it will always be home.



# Digital Graduation

3<sup>rd</sup> year Geography



I felt bad that third year graduations were cancelled, so I've put together a Goat Post graduation ceremony for third year Fitzwilliam geographers. Sadly, I don't have time to graduate all the finalists at Fitz in here - the geographers should think themselves lucky...

*“Auctoritate mihi commissa admitto  
te ad gradum Geography in nomine  
Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti.”*



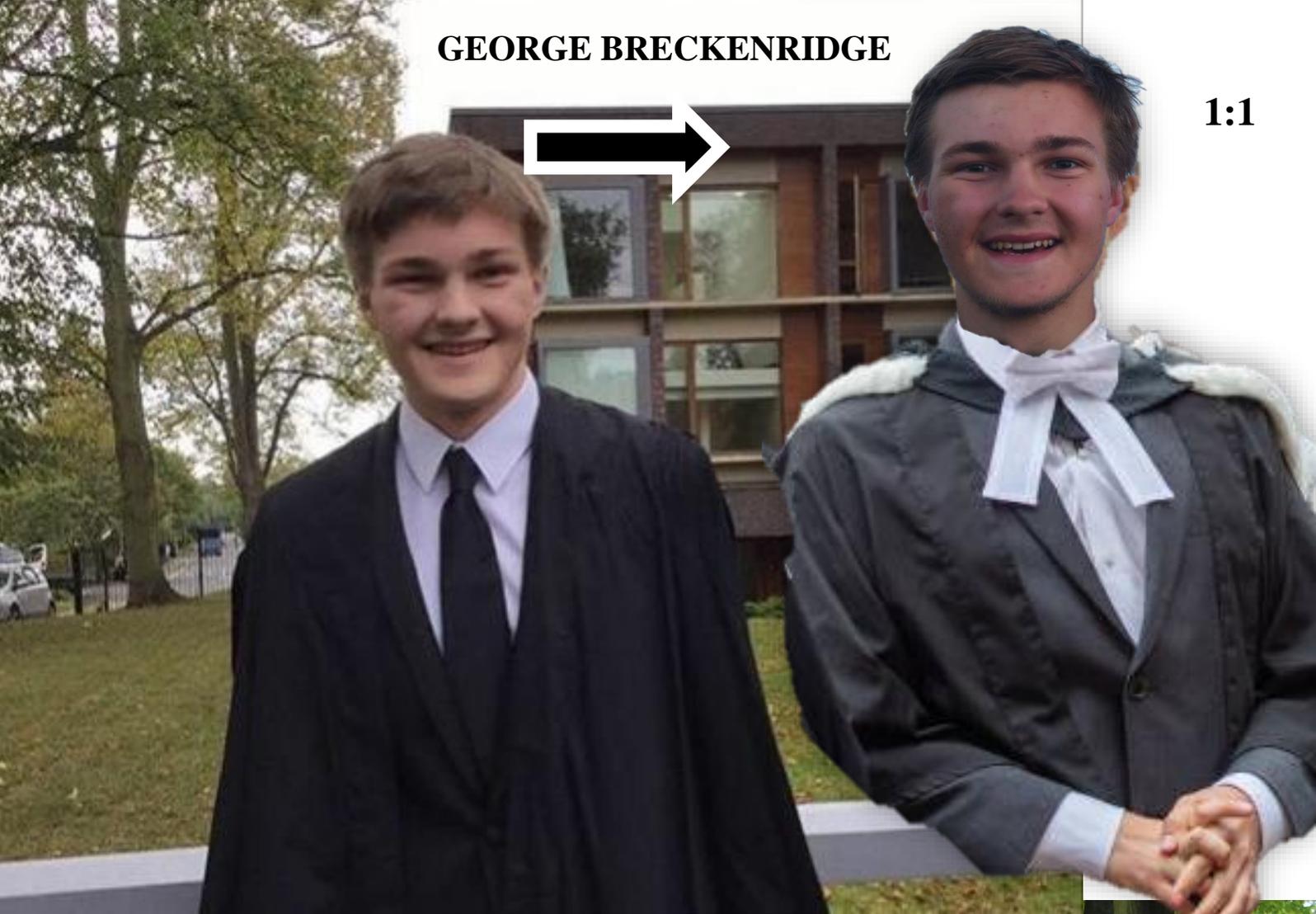
A young woman with long blonde hair is standing in a narrow, cobblestone street. She is wearing a black graduation cap with a gold tassel and a black graduation gown with a white stole and a gold stole. She is smiling slightly at the camera. The street is flanked by brick buildings, and a black street lamp hangs from a pole on the right side of the street. The sky is overcast.

**HARRIET BRADNOCK**

**1:1**

**GEORGE BRECKENRIDGE**

**1:1**



**SOPHIE METCALFE**

**1:1**



**ELLIE BRAIN**

**1:1**



**GEORGE HAYES**

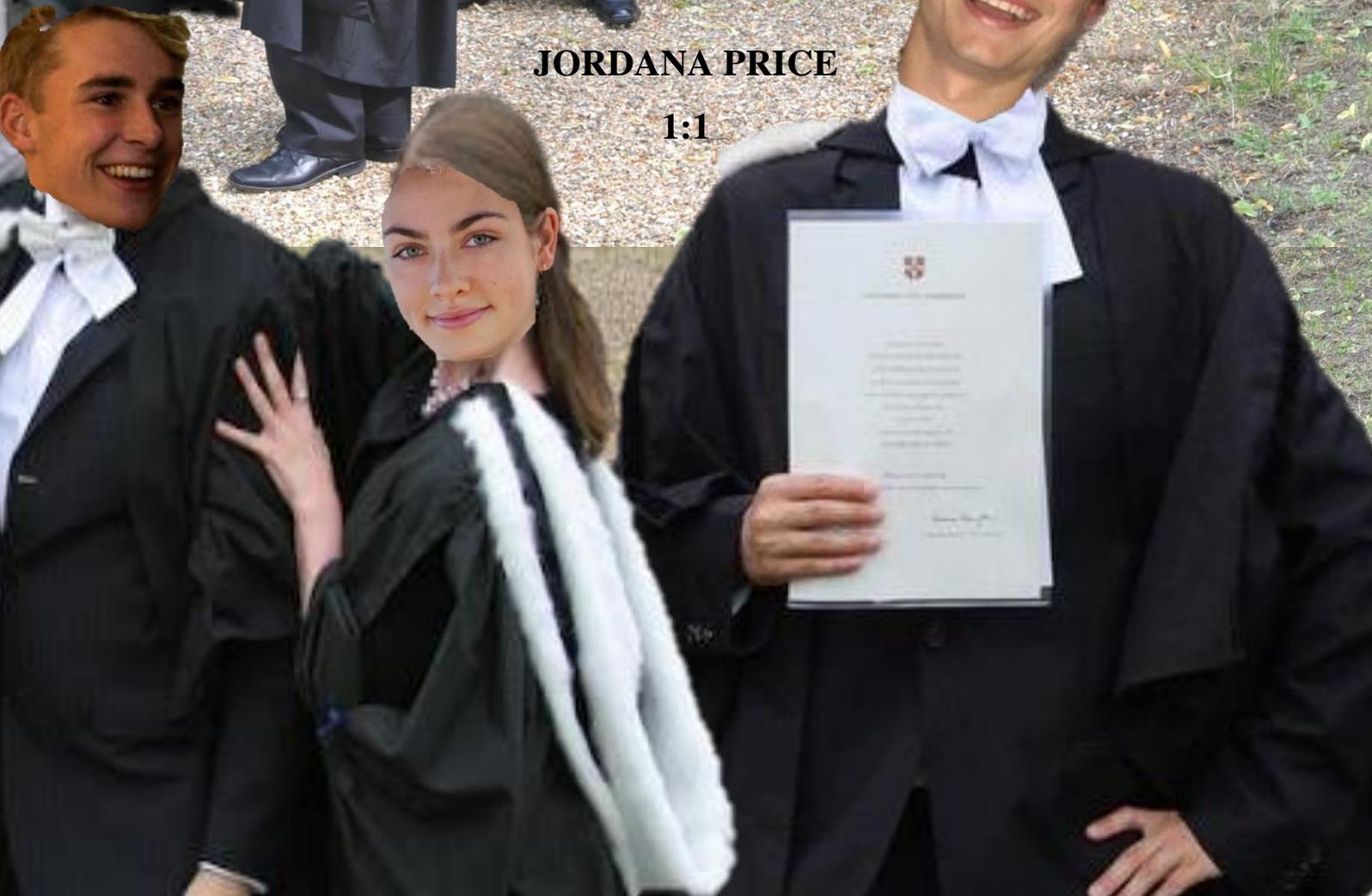
**1:1**

**CAOLAN  
MCCONNAUGHIE**

**1:1**

**JORDANA PRICE**

**1:1**



**ALICE CARTER**

**1:1**



# Fitz in the Media



Camfess

11 April at 14:59 · ⚙️

#Camfession11209

Fitz Starter Pack





**Fitz Trivia**

18 April at 17:39 · 🌐

Connor Dwyer (3rd year, HSPS) was suspended from the Conservative party in 2015 for being "too left wing"

<https://www.google.co.uk/.../teenage-tory-activist-suspended-...>



MIRROR.CO.UK

## Teenage Tory activist suspended for being too left-wing

Youth Parliament member Connor Dwyer says he was suspended for...



# An ode to Fitz



By Eleanor Poston

As the Fitz community is currently spread across the world, and we are experiencing something that was unfathomable just months ago, some of us may be feeling slightly cheated out of a term here at Fitz, especially when time here as an undergraduate moves very quickly. Although Easter Term is often daunting, with exams as its focus, I found that Easter term last year was the most enjoyable for me, with incredible memories made out on The Grove and across Cambridge. I thought I would use this article as an opportunity to explore some of the things that I was looking forward to doing in my middle Easter term, in a (sort of) ode to the term that never was – except for the exams, which are still happening.

## Views from the Olisa

I do love an excellent view, and to look out from the top floor of the library is always fun, especially as you can always spot people below and get a lovely view of Fitz – and if you're feeling adventurous you could make a trip to Castle Hill if a nice view is really your thing!

## The Food

Inevitably with the arrival of exam term, along comes a huge increase in EPOS charges, as you somehow end up eating in the buttery or café for every meal!

## The Events

Whether it be attending a May Ball, Garden Party or cheering on the Football team to ANOTHER Cuppers victory, the events of Easter term are unforgettable. I was looking forward to working a couple of June events as well as attending others this year and I remember being in absolute awe of these events in my first year, as it was something I had never experienced before.

## Evenings on The Grove

In first year I spent a significant amount of time sitting out on The Grove, taking food out from the buttery, playing games and just chatting. It was so nice to just be outside and bump into people. I honestly think that my favourite thing about Fitz is the spontaneous friendships and conversations that take place, meaning that you'll always find a friend. By far the most beautiful time out there is in the evening, when the sun goes down on the building and golden hour creeps in.



These events are just a tiny portion, of things that I missed out on last year and memories that I want to remake. Hopefully this year will change our perspective, helping us to appreciate Fitz even more, and realise that it isn't just a place, it is a community that brings us together, even when we can't be together. This term has really made me realise how lucky I am to be a Fitzbilly, and that I need to make the most of the opportunities that I have in my final year and make lots of memories – whilst also inevitably spending a fair amount of time in the Olisa, and too much money in the café.

# Longing for Cambridge

By Joanna Neve

Time away from Cambridge has made me appreciate the city so much more over the last few weeks. Although I'm technically still at Fitz, everyone's gone and the city feels empty. I can't wait for life to return to normal and for all the friendly Fitz faces to return again. On my daily walk, I've taken the time to mentally compile a list of all the things I really want to do in my final year when Michaelmas starts. It feels as though my time at Cambridge is slipping away so fast, and I want to make the most of my final year. You just never know when it might come to an end.

## Early morning swim at Kelsey Kerridge

I've been obsessing recently about the idea of swimming – not sure why. I guess you crave the things you can't have. If the situation clears, I'd love to start swimming at Kelsey Kerridge one morning a week. Failing that, Tomas Andre still hasn't taken up my first-year challenge for a wild swim in the cam (avoiding punt boats of course!).

## Breakfast at Fitzbillies

I'm so accustomed to brunch at Fitz - *which is great* - but I feel slightly guilty that I've still not taken my wife Ellie out to eat (beauty on the left).

## Try a whacky student society

In my first year I decided to take up a whacky sport - I chose pole. In my second year it was life drawing classes with ArcSoc. I'm still uncertain for third year, but I'm thinking maybe clay shooting, pottery or weights?

## Work in the botanical gardens

When all the students left I turned the botanical garden into my study. I was pleasantly surprised by how beautiful they were and would love to head there on sunny days for afternoon reading.



## Step back from committees and spend more time with pals

Don't get me wrong I've really enjoyed being involved in different student societies and doing bits and bobs here and there, but in my final year I'd like to step back and spend more time with friends. I've missed countless dinners and nights in with friends because I've been far too busy writing stories for student media, or heading out to meetings. From now on I'm telling myself no more committees!!!

If you know of any new activities to try, drop me a message! My wife and I need to spend much less time (and money) in the Fitz Café!!

