

CLARE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

2004 20th Anniversary Reunion Booklet

Ilana Bergsagel

After leaving Clare, I worked predominantly in education - teaching, lecturing and as a teacher trainer. I have an MA in English Literature and started a PhD, twice (that I didn't finish, twice!). Today I live in Israel and work for the Parents Circle - Families Forum, a joint Palestinian and Israeli non-profit that brings together bereaved families to promote dialogue and reconciliation.



Matt Clifford

I spend most of my time trying to be a good husband to Emily and dad to Felix (6) and Jasper (4) and working in startups and tech policy.

After graduating from Clare I moved to Boston to do a masters at MIT and, more importantly, met Emily. I then returned to London and after a brief stint as a management consultant, co-founded my company, Entrepreneur First (EF) in 2011.

At EF we find talented individuals, typically with strong technical backgrounds, and help them build tech startups from scratch. This has gone a lot better than I expected! We've funded around 500 companies, some of which have become quite big, and we have offices in London, Paris, Bangalore, New York and San Francisco.



Over the last couple of years, I've started spending some of my time on UK tech policy. I am the non-exec Chair of ARIA, the UK's Advanced Research and Invention Agency, a new organisation loosely modelled on DARPA with £800m to unlock scientific and technological breakthroughs.

I've also done quite a lot of work to try to build UK state capacity in AI. Last year I led the design work for the UK's AI Safety Institute and took a short leave of absence from EF to lead the UK's preparations for the AI Safety Summit that Rishi Sunak hosted at Bletchley

Park in November. I am currently leading a review of UK AI strategy for the new government, which will be published in October.

I live in Oxford, which I love, but obviously feels a little perfidious!

Dr Helen Hockings

20 years after starting medical school, Helen has finally completed her training, and now works as a Consultant Medical Oncologist in North London.

She lives in Harpenden with her husband, Doug, and two gorgeous little girls, Clara and Emma.



Natalie Hope

I had a wonderful time at Clare College during my stay from 2004 to 2007 studying Medicine (Medical Sciences Tripos). I vividly remember arriving at college as a precocious 17 year old full of hope, expectation and enthusiasm. Medicine was hard work but a lot of fun and I felt privileged to be a member of Clare thanks to all the lovely people that I met, many still friends today (@CiaraD, @JeanL, @VeraW).



I have very fond memories of the Boat Club. I was a novice in 2nd year and rowed for the Women's 1st VIII in Lent Bumps in 2007. I would have loved to have rowed during May Bumps that year but refrained from it so that I could study for Theology exams having joined the School of Divinity for 3rd year.

After leaving Cambridge, I moved to Imperial College, London for clinical school and graduated with an MBBS in 2010. I loved 1st year anatomy and nothing enthused me anywhere near as much as orthopaedic surgery which I was exposed to as a fifth year student. This inspired my medical school elective at MSKCC, New York in orthopaedic oncology and ICU.

Following graduation, I worked in London for Foundation Training. I subsequently had a gap year where I spent time in Boston, Massachusetts and did research at the Brigham and Women's Hospital. This was followed by Core Surgical Training in the Thames Valley (Oxford) Deanery, an MSc in Musculoskeletal Sciences at Oxford University and Specialty Training in Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery on the London South East Thames rotation.

After completing orthopaedic training, I worked abroad in Sierra Leone at an NGO Hospital. This was one of the most rewarding and enriching experiences of my career to date and I will endeavour to make humanitarian work a long-lasting part of my future work. I have since undertaken a fellowship in Hand Surgery at Salford Royal Hospital, a Peripheral Nerve Surgery fellowship at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham (current post), and will return to Salford next year to start work as a Consultant Hand Surgeon.

Sophie Ibbotson

Sophie Ibbotson (Oriental Studies, 2004) is the Chairman of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs, the first woman appointed to the role since the society was founded in 1901. She works primarily as a consultant to the World Bank and national governments, with a focus on economic development and water security in emerging markets and fragile states. Sophie is a Visiting Fellow at Oxford University's Changing Character of War Centre, where she studies the forecasting and mitigation of water conflicts in Afghanistan and Central Asia; and she is currently writing the first biography of the Amu Darya (River Oxus), from its source in Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor to the ill-fated Aral Sea. When not travelling for work, she lives happily in Reading with Edward Day (Engineering, 2004), her college husband at Clare.



Viki Male (Moyses)

After graduating from Clare, I stayed in Cambridge for my PhD on immune cells in human pregnancy. During my PhD, I married fellow-alumnus Paul Moyses and we moved to London where I took a job as a postdoctoral researcher at Imperial. My contract finished the day before the birth of our son and I spent a year out of science, but during this time I was able to secure funding to start my own lab at UCL, working on the immunology of liver transplantation. While running my lab at UCL, I had our second child - a daughter. I later returned to Imperial as



a Senior Lecturer in Reproductive Immunology and my lab currently focuses on how the uterine immune system is involved in the physiological processes of pregnancy. During the pandemic, I was involved in collating and communicating information on the effect of SARS-CoV2 infection and COVID vaccination on fertility, pregnancy and breastfeeding, and in research on how COVID vaccination affects the menstrual cycle.

Fiona McMahon (née Lymburn)

Fiona lives in the Midlothian countryside near Edinburgh with her husband Stewart (a Caius NatSci alumnus) and their two young sons (Ellis – 6 and James – 4). Most weekends involve shuttling the boys between various clubs and birthday parties. However, she also manages to squeeze in some club badminton, the occasional half marathon and is devoted to growing fruit and vegetables in her VegTrugs (the enthusiasm normally exceeds the yield!). Not quite ready to get a dog, the family have delayed the inevitable by recently adding 6 shrimps, 2 snails and a selection of worms for the fledgling wormery to the household! Work wise, Fiona moved to London after graduating and spent 5 years working in corporate finance (at PwC) before joining a private equity fund, ECI Partners. Fiona moved north of the border 7 years ago and has subsequently co-founded a private equity firm called Newlands Capital, to invest into privately owned businesses.



Fiona's exciting new side hustle is becoming a published children's author with her debut novel, Peter Pootleton and the Hiccuping Headache now available at Amazon and Waterstones. Brownie points are available for any Amazon reviews!

Rachel Morris

After college, Rachel spent time in France before moving to London with Clare friends. She now works as a solicitor specialising in personal tax, trusts and international estate planning and is a trustee of University House Legal Advice Centre. Still sailing, she lives on the South Coast with her husband, Tom, and children, Arthur and Ella.

Anna Morely (nee Fell)

Following on from my degree in Land Economy, I qualified as a Chartered Surveyor and have been working as a Rural Surveyor ever since. After spending a few years working in Cheshire, I moved back to my home county of Yorkshire and in 2018 set up my own rural consultancy business with my brother called Brockthorpe Consultancy.

I am married to a Yorkshire farmer called James and I love living on our Yorkshire Wolds farm with our three children, Grace (8), Alice (7) and Ralph (4). We have arable land, 64,000 free range laying hens, pigs and cattle on the farm which keeps us busy!

I haven't been near a rowing boat since leaving Clare and instead enjoy playing tennis in our local Drifffield league!

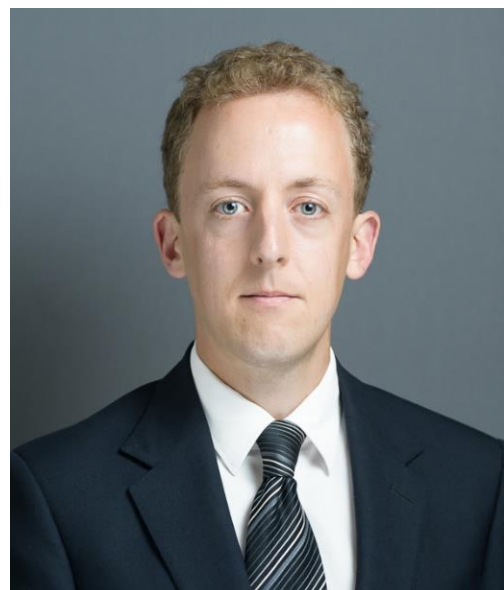
Adam Perkins

After graduating Adam briefly taught maths at Westminster School. Since 2010 he has been working as a management consultant - he is currently a partner at Oliver Wyman where he has been for the last decade.

He lives in North London with his partner, their cat, and their son.

Barry Smith

Father of two. Previously in legal practice as a barrister (2010) and solicitor (2020) with a focus on financial crime and healthcare regulation. Successfully represented three appellants in the criminal appeals arising from the Post Office scandal. Appointed as a Fee-paid Employment Judge and a Fee-paid Judge of the First-tier Tribunal, assigned to the Health, Education and Social Care Chamber, in 2021, and as a Deputy District Judge (Magistrates' Courts) in 2022. Appointed as a Salaried Judge of the Employment Tribunals, assigned to the Central London region, in 2024.



Katie Whitlock & Ben Whitlock

After leaving Clare Katie (née Pillman) worked in marketing and communications for organisations including The Royal Parks, the University of Westminster and World Skills UK. Katie currently works in researcher development, supporting researchers at Oxford Brookes University.

After leaving Clare Ben began a career in public policy, firstly at Transport for London, before joining the civil service in 2013 where he has worked across a number of Departments, with a focus on local and regional growth policy. He is currently Deputy Director at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Katie and Ben married in 2013, with many Clare alumni at their wedding including Matt Clifford as best man. They have two children, Ralph and Florence, aged 7 and 5 and live near Oxford.



Vera Wichers

After graduating in law, I initially took a different path and obtained a Graduate Diploma in the History of Art at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London. Following that, I moved to Rome, where I worked as a tour guide in one of the catacombs. Giving tours in German, English, French, and Italian, and sharing my knowledge of early Christianity and late antique art (the focus of my Courtauld studies) was, in hindsight, one of the most enjoyable jobs I've ever had.

After my time in Rome, I returned to London to complete my legal training. I qualified as a solicitor at Hogan Lovells in 2012, initially focusing on product liability, and spent six months each in Paris and Munich. What began as a secondment turned into a permanent move to Munich in 2014. I now focus on internal investigations, compliance, and cross-border commercial litigation, often handling complex supply chain disputes across multiple countries.



Still, something had always been nagging at me: I had always wanted to go to drama school, but it had never seemed like a viable option. My interest in law was significantly fuelled by my favourite books, films, and TV shows, like "To Kill a Mockingbird", "A Few Good Men",

and "Ally McBeal", all revolving around courtroom drama and the pursuit of justice. Looking back, I realised that my passion for performance and storytelling had always complemented my legal career. In 2020, with time to reassess during the pandemic, I decided to pursue that long-held dream. I enrolled in a part-time drama school in Munich and graduated this summer. I've just formed a theatre group with fellow graduates, and while I continue my legal career, I'm excited to explore where this new adventure in acting might lead, guided by the belief that it's never too late to be what you might have been.