



Cambridge Society for the Application of Research

Churchill College
Storey's Way
Cambridge
CB3 0DS

Churchill's Bomb

Dr Graham Farmelo

7.30pm, Monday 14th March 2016

Wolfson Hall Lecture Theatre, Churchill College, Storey's Way, Cambridge

The Lecture:

Dr Graham Farmelo writes:

Contrary to widespread belief, Winston Churchill was interested in basic science, especially in its possible military and civil applications. Although he was not a strong student in technical subjects, he privately cultivated an interest in science when he was a young man through the work of HG Wells, Darwin and others. Later, in the '20s and '30s, he was interested in quantum theory and even in the beginnings of nuclear science. In this lecture, I will explore how Churchill came to oversee the first nuclear development programme and his subsequent involvement with nuclear weapons, I shall enquire about his judgment in leading these nuclear developments and ask whether he can reasonably be described as a political pioneer of the nuclear age.

Please note:-

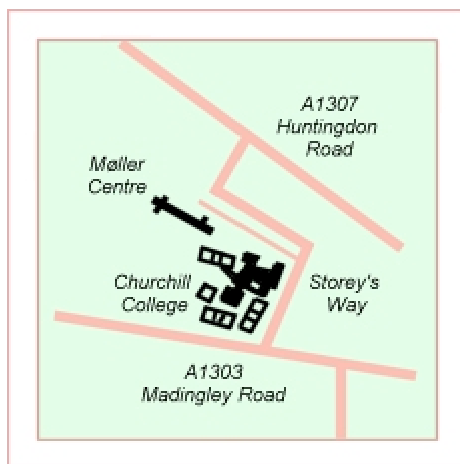
The Lecture will be preceded by a brief (5mins) presentation by CSAR Award Student Andrew McCombie about his PhD research related to helping those with learning disabilities during magisterial court proceedings.

There will be approximately 5 minutes for questions

About the Speaker:

Graham is an award-winning science writer and biographer, specialising in physics and physicists. Formerly an academic, museum professional and undercover restaurant critic, he is now a writer, speaker and consultant in science communication, especially in Europe and North America. His biography of Paul Dirac, *The Strangest Man* (2009) won the UK Costa Prize for Biography (2010), Los Angeles Times Science Book Prize (2010) and Physics World's book of the year (2009). In 2013, he published *Churchill's Bomb*, an exploration of the great statesman's relationship with the Bomb and the scientists who developed it. He has appeared numerous times on BBC TV, e.g. 'Secrets of Quantum Physics', 'Nothing, 'Beautiful Equations' (BBC4) and BBC Radio 4, and has over 500 articles and reviews in *The Times*, *Nature*, *New Scientist*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *Times Higher Education*. He is a Bye-Fellow of Churchill College, University of Cambridge, and an Honorary Fellow of the British Science Association. <http://grahamfarmelo.com/>

Practical Matters



Those attending the CSAR lecture may park in the Senior Car Park on Churchill Road, which is off Storey's Way. More parking is available further along Churchill Road, and in the Möller Centre at the far end.

CSAR lectures are open to all; CSAR members are admitted free. Pupils and students may register for free membership at the lecture reception desk.

Non-members are asked to make a nominal contribution of £3.00.

Coffee and biscuits are available in the Wolfson Foyer from around 7pm. For further directions, see: www.chu.cam.ac.uk/about/visitors/directions.php

Attendees are welcome to dine in the Hall at Churchill College (self-service, 5.45-7.15 pm), and to have snacks and refreshments in the College Buttery before and after events.

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