

CAMBRIDGE FESTIVAL OF IDEAS 2008 - EVALUATION

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INTRODUCTION

The Cambridge Festival of Ideas aims to engage members of the public with the arts, humanities and social sciences, and to provide an opportunity for the public to enter University of Cambridge buildings, meet academics and students and learn and explore more about the world we live in.

An impetus for establishing the Cambridge Festival of Ideas is the ongoing popularity of the annual Cambridge Science Festival with the public, and the valuable communication experience that staff and students have reported that they have gained through engaging with the public.

Aims and Objectives

- To generate public interest in the arts, humanities and social sciences
- To secure media coverage of the festival, the academics and partners involved
- To promote year-round access to museums and other University of Cambridge resources relevant to arts, humanities and social science
- To attract at least 5,000 visitors to over a week of events from 22 October – 2 November
- To engage with the Cambridge community, reach new audiences and build lasting relationships with new groups and organisations
- To contribute towards the University's widening participation aims by providing events for school pupils at primary and secondary level

Evaluation Summary

We used visitor evaluation forms for children and adults to prepare this evaluation, and asked for feedback from event co-ordinators

This report contains a selection of visitor comments on events that they attended. We have not included negative feedback on individual speakers in this document, but provided full feedback on speakers to the event co-ordinators involved.

The demographic and marketing information on the visitors who attended is based on data capture from over 700 attendees.

Using a combination of actual attendance figures at events where attendance was recorded, and estimates from 'open door' events, we estimate that we attracted over 8,000 visitors to over 200 events between 22 October and 2 November.

SATURDAY 25TH EVENTS

Introduction

Many of the family talks, discussions, workshops, and hands-on activities took place on Saturday 25 March with open afternoons in several departments at the University, museums and many partner organisations. We estimate that over 1,500 members of the public attended activities on that day.

Visitor Comments

General / multiple events attended

A great selection of events catering for a variety of age groups. Well organised. The talks I attended were very interesting and I learnt a lot. Hope this will be a yearly event.

The whole week is a brilliant 'idea'. Again next year please

Excellent, friendly, well organised

Very good. The ideas are stimulating

Nice to have people round to help you. Everyone's been excellent with directions & very helpful - thank you very much

Very interesting talks. It is vital for departments to continue public education events such as this.

Had a marvellous day, what an amazing day, I have learnt so many new things. Looking forward to the next one.

Just wanted to say how fantastic the festival was. We drove down from near Manchester and had a brilliant time.

I enjoyed the variety of choice and am grateful to the academics who have taken time off to entertain us

Brilliant. Good year to get public involved with the Uni

Fantastic range of events - exhibitions, debate, lectures & topics. Well organised for such a big event but venues not always easy to find e.g. exhibition at Anglia Ruskin.

Sidgwick Site

How to illuminate an elephant

10:30 – 11:30, Lady Mitchell Hall

Number attending: 100

Comments from the public

Brilliant, fascinating. I'm sorry for anyone who missed it. Best talk I have EVER heard and suitable for ages 3 - 103. Please repeat every year!

Superb. Fascinating. We're off to create a manuscript now. Thank you!

Talk was fantastic. V. knowledgeable and entertaining speaker. Thoroughly enjoyable and has lots of 'sparkle'! I learnt so much and it certainly was pitched for 'all ages'! Many thanks

How to write a mystery story

12:00 – 13:00, Lady Mitchell Hall

Number attending: 300

Comments from the public

Excellent! Well organised, entertaining, focused!

We really enjoyed the Caroline Lawrence talk. We travelled over an hour to get to it - from South Lincolnshire, and it was worth every minute. Our ten year old son who is a Caroline Lawrence fan was spell bound and was so pleased to be able to meet her afterwards

Excellent. Great communicator

We saw one of my favourite authors! [Aged 12]

When Caroline Lawrence explained about the 7 points on how to write a story [Aged 13]

Icons in French culture

13:30 – 14:00, Lady Mitchell Hall

Number attending: 40

Comments from the public

Erudite, enlightening, fun & uplifting.

Wonderful! So interesting and witty. Well structured ideas to make us think

Very, very interesting. It was the first time I attended a talk in Cambridge. I am a new comer here and I find it is a very good opportunity through the Festival of Ideas to discover the University of Cambridge and have access to all these different sites that we couldn't get in without the Festival. Thank you.

Can texting make you more literate?

14:30 – 15:30, Lady Mitchell Hall

Number attending: 120

Comments from the public

Excellent, amusing & informative. Also very good to see a 'famous name' in the field in the flesh

VERY GOOD!! Txting - fascinating and informative, as well as entertaining - a highlight for us!!

Excellent. Superb. I wish we could have such good speakers with such original & inspiring ideas more often

Stimulating, provocative and entertaining. Excellent quality event

Engaging, fun presentation of facts/ideas. Changed my perception, in part, on texting

Very intriguing & informative. Would have preferred more Q&A time

Perfect opening to the Festival. He is an excellent speaker (1 hour, with no notes) & just enough showmanship to succeed without being too flashy. The subject was an ideal one to challenge possible prejudices, with enough examples that would make older people in the hall feel well informed. In a Festival of Ideas he provided plenty in one of the best talks I have ever heard in Cambridge.

Hollywood versus the telephone

16:00 – 16:30, Lady Mitchell Hall

Number attending: 35

Comments from the public

Thought provoking & well presented

Relevant, informative and entertaining. Well presented & researched with great examples.

Minding your manners

10:30 – 11:00, Little Hall

Number attending: 80

Comments from the public

An excellent presentation. Interesting and informative. Well pitched for all ages and of appropriate duration. Many thanks!

Good, informative, very funny. Rating: 9/10

This was really entertaining and the half hour went really quickly. I particularly like the fact that the school children were encouraged to participate. Perhaps next year this could be longer as the lecturer was so enthusiastic and seemed to have much more to cover.

Hard for the pupils (ages 11-12) to sit still and be quiet and engaged for a long period of time. Concentration skills can be low. I myself & other teachers enjoyed the lectures and learnt something new from each one. Children would probably appreciate more slides and activities/experiments (visual aids). All took part in Q&A, so had listened.

Cracking alchemical codes

11:30 – 12:30, Little Hall

Number attending: 100

Comments from the public

Well presented

Good. Would have liked more detail & more pictures!

Fascinating. I shall continue to study this subject. She touched on so many avenues of investigation

I really enjoyed the talk which was clearly delivered and fascinating throughout. Great visuals on a subject I previously knew nothing about

Well thought out presentation given with enthusiasm. Shame about noisy school group!

Fascinating!!

Good

This was fascinating. There were loads of slides and props like cellophane and the postgraduate student could not have been more enthusiastic.

Louise Rennison in conversation

12:30 – 13:15, Little Hall

Number attending: 50

Comments from the public

Excellent

Excellent - really funny

Fantastic - Louise Rennison should spend time in everyone's home on an annual basis! Life would improve immeasurably

Absolutely superb, but sadly under attended. Please get Louise back again!

Very funny. Great thank you

Mythology and marketing in the Renaissance

13:30 – 14:30, Little Hall

Number attending: 55

Comments from the public

Interesting material, very well presented.

Excellent

Found them very interesting - relevant to modern times

Political hypocrisy

15:00 – 16:00, Little Hall

Number attending: 128 (venue at full capacity)

Comments from the public

Excellent - good balance between speakers, very humorous speakers & excellent knowledge
The talk was very relevant and also very clear. I was positively surprised that although I am not an expert on politics, I understood everything they were talking about.
Superb!! Excellent. Lively informative. Would like lots more like this.
Stimulating talks & debate
Thoroughly enjoyable
Michael White from the Guardian an excellent foil to David Runciman

**Confucius in China: old ideas for a modern world
10:00 – 11:00, Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies**

Number attending: 50 (venue at full capacity)

Comments from the public

Excellent!
Fascinating. Very engaging speaker. Highly relevant to current developments
Very topical subject, excellently presented, certainly worth pursuing in future years. VERY GOOD!
Excellent!
Absolutely splendid - please repeat
The lecture provided an excellent background. I would have liked reflection on how we can apply these ideas to a modern world. Room too small
Great
Riveting! V. good
Very interesting. Well presented. Motivation for further reading & understanding
Very well presented. Gave considerable grounds for thought. Most enjoyable
This was an excellent lecture - nice balance between information & entertainment for a non-specialist audience. Interesting links made between attitudes towards Confucius in the past & relevance today. I really enjoyed this - left me wanting to know more
A very interesting talk, pitched at the right level and delivered with liveliness and some humour
Excellent. Informative, well illustrated, well pitched. A mixture of information for those who knew nothing about the topic as well as interesting evaluations in the context of modern China. Would recommend that this lecture is repeated. There was clearly much interest in it and the speaker's easy manner made him a pleasure to listen to. I'm so glad I got a place in the room.

**The neglected ally: China in World War II
11:00 – 12:00, Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies**

Number attending: 50 (venue at full capacity)

Comments from the public

Excellent. Especially "the neglected ally" - a revelation
Very good introduction to the topic that makes you curious to learn more
Fun and comprehensive. Increased understanding in a cohesive way the disparate knowledge ... of this multi-faceted period

**East Asian film
13:00 – 14:00, Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies**

Number attending: 50

Comments from the public

It's really nice. I really enjoyed it
Very good (both)

Persian miniature paintings, epic poetry and the internet
14:00 – 15:00, Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

Number attending: 30

Comments from the public

Very interesting, clear, amusing - a v good communicator
Enjoyed very much. I especially appreciated events that didn't require pre-booking
Very informative & interesting & of high quality
Would have preferred more of the talk – there were problems with Internet

Arabic calligraphy: a practical workshop
15:30 – 17:00, Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

Number attending: pre-booking required, 20 spaces available, fully booked

Comments from the public

Lively presenter. This was fun and well done.

Vikings, Celts and Anglo-Saxons: busting the myths
13:30 – 16:30, Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic

Number attending: ?? (Pre-booking required, fully booked)

Comments from the public

Brilliant. Access for all ages. Great variety of events
She liked making the Celtic medicines, shield and the Celtic 'I'. My 3 yr old loved all the event
too
I liked making medicines and shields [Aged 6]

How children learn languages
13:00 – 16:00, Faculty of English

Number attending: ??

Comments from the public

Stimulating. Opened my mind to areas of thought I had not previously considered. Good to
get bite sized examples of what research is going on
Very well presented in nice friendly atmosphere. Well adapted for children in the audience.
Easily understood - no jargon but not patronising. We especially enjoyed Dr Houduk's
presentation
Well presented, interesting, inclusive of visitors (years 7 & 8)

A short history of death in England
10:00 – 12:00, Faculty of History

Number attending: 40

Comments from the public

Interesting

Wagner: music and power

12:00 – 13:00, Faculty of History

Number attending: 50

Comments from the public

VERY GOOD!! Wagner - very informative and interesting!

Very good in content

Myth telling

17:00 – 18:30, Museum of Classical Archaeology

Number attending: ?? (Pre-booking required, fully booked)

Comments from the public

It was good. Maybe could be improved if they use better costumes and maybe some music. Very atmospheric

Very enjoyable - wonderful to here these stories surrounded by such magnificent statues of the characters involved

Absolutely magnificent!

This was a great event. The story tellers kept the children riveted. It was lovely to have an event aimed at slightly older children. There is always plenty for primary aged children (7-11), but much less for children at KS 3 (11-14). It would be great if a few more events could be organised for the 11-14 group

Myth telling was excellent. Children events we attended could be more interactive, problem solving e.g. deciphering messages using runes

Central Cambridge

Victorian China: a touch of eastern promise as viewed through the magic lantern

10:00 – 12:00, Pitt Building

Number attending: pre-booking required, 20 spaces available, 19 booked

Comments from the public

Excellent

Wonderful. Could imagine myself at a fair in 1890 being delightfully scared out of my wits!

And the C20th slides of China were highly interesting; very well done!

Fantastic. Kids really love the show and the hands on part

The power of portraits

11:00 – 12:00, Pitt Building

Number attending: pre-booking required, 20 spaces available, fully booked

Comments from the public

The presentation was good. Just right for the children in terms of length and interaction. My daughter really enjoyed the workshop as well and came away wanting to do more!

Excellent talk & activity - just right for the audience

Very good. Interesting talk, pitched at the right level & length of time. Lovely activity, well thought out & presented. Thank you

Excellent

Brilliant! My daughter loves both events!

It's a lovely opportunity to do some things together as a family for free and learn and have fun at the same time

Chinese paper cutting

13:30 – 15:00, Pitt Building

Number attending: 100

Comments from the public

Very good!

Great - really fun to do and see the artist's work

Brilliant

Excellent. Thank you

Excellent, great fun. Paper cutting was a revelation - the shapes one can create.

Good

Good with table, queue not long, could drop in

It's really good, I loved it!

Unable to attend as demand too great. Seems a shame as looked really interesting

Paper cutting was too popular - not enough time or scissors or chairs available

I loved cutting out the butterfly

Art workshop exploring the tiny: Nanoworld

13:30 – 16:30, Pitt Building

Number attending: 150

Comments from the public

Liked it. Nanoworld great for adults too

Great. Due to amount of people attending they could probably run for longer

Excellent. Good hands on activities. Lots of learning by doing. Particularly loved nano modelling

Drumming workshop

10:00 – 17:00, Centre of Latin American Studies

Number attending: 100

Comments from the public

Needs bigger space & organised timetable with 30 min slots. Maybe organise pre-booked slots because lots of people had to be turned away. Was a v. popular event & not enough space for everyone. Need to know how many drums there will be so that places can be appropriately allocated.

Good. Need more drumming spaces, especially for over 8s

A brief history of the mind

13:00 – 15:00, Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies

Number attending: ??

Comments from the public

Enthusiastic presenters. Not always easy to see how different exhibits fitted together. Went away more knowledgeable.

Interest: 10/10. Presentation 10/10.

A taste of languages

14:00 – 16:00, The Language Centre

Number attending: 11

Comments from the public

Fantastic

Hazel was brilliant

Excellent. Fun and interesting

Excellent introduction to Chinese calligraphy! Very enthusiastic and knowledgeable teacher.

Thank you

An excellent two hour taste of the Japanese language very well presented by Mrs Wilson. I

thoroughly enjoyed it.

Good, interesting, educational

Brilliant! Arigatou!

I thought it was brilliant

Well organised, varied, staff full of enthusiasm...just wished we lived a bit nearer

Great! Nice to have the opportunity to practice speaking

Very interesting and informative. Fun and just the right length! Thank you for last minute adaptations to the preparation! Handouts are v. helpful too

Around Cambridge

bodyPaint: a spatial game

10:00 – 14:00, Computer Laboratory

Number attending: pre-booking required, 21 spaces available, 19 booked

Comments from the public

We really enjoyed this event and learnt so much. Cecily Morrison was fantastic!

Really enjoyed the session. Wonderful for the kids to understand how to work together to be able to paint an image. Workshop leader very clear with instructions. Very kind

I thought it was fantastic! A great opportunity for children to get an insight into the technologies used. Would be very interested in doing it again or doing future research.

I liked being able to draw and write with your arms and how you were able to change colour etc by moving. I really enjoyed the event

Drawing a smiley face together by moving our bodies

Working as a team to draw a face

I liked working together in something completely different

I liked BodyPaint and drawing hi on it because it was challenging and fun drawing using hand actions and moving around

I liked BodyPaint with friends because we learnt how to draw and write things using sensors on our bodies and I enjoyed working as a team

Curious fruits

10:30 – 12:30, 13:30 – 15:30, Botanic Gardens

Number attending: ??

Comments from the public

Very good, well organised, good follow-up e.g. seed pods were hung in Botanic Gardens afterwards.

Great activity. The children really enjoyed the seed story and decorating their balloon. The finished results were very effective.

The 'Curious Fruits' event sparked their imagination and even the 8 year old lively boy was fully occupied. We all thought both events were worth travelling from Bury St Edmunds for.

Rachel loves to learn new skills and especially to explore her creative side. Thanks to your staff and enthusiastic volunteers

Just to say thanks for engaging the creative interest of our very lively and energetic grandson.

He can't wait for a future visit. Of course we needed to take him to see the tropical house and also some exploring in the gardens to burn off some energy!

I liked making the lanterns by decorating them with leaves, seeds and other things from the garden [Aged 10]

Language, identity and culture through European cinema

11:00 – 12:00, Anglia Ruskin University

Number attending: ??

Comments from the public

Good, more info would be appreciated

The film clips (4) took practically the whole hour so there was little time for commentary of questions and discussion.

Poorly signed

Poetry writing workshop

10:30 – 12:00, Homerton College

Number attending: 11

Comments from the public

Very, very inclusive opportunity to show talents. Very well led

Very interesting and excellent for the children. Many thanks for a great session.

Really good fun. Thank you

Really well run. Thank you

Very, very inspiring

I enjoyed everything. Especially Morag, Debbie and Helen. They were really friendly & kind!
[Aged 10]

Prehistory day

10:30 – 16:00, Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Number attending: 250

Comments from the public

FANTASTIC! Great introduction to new subjects, especially for my son

Lots of fun! Well organised event, everyone very friendly and knowledgeable. Especially enjoyed the painting! Awesome!!

Excellent. Very well throughout. Everyone was very informative. Very accessible content-wise for my 6 yr old as it was hands on stuff

Fantastic! Lots of things you don't see every day! Musical archaeology was interesting.

Butchery & tanning excellent. Smelting demo much better than just looking at a diagram.

Great; v. interesting for children & adults

Wonderful, very friendly, hands-on, informative. THANK YOU!

A great morning, despite the chill. Learned lots from very informative, interesting friendly people. Spear throwing, cave art, tattoos, pottery, hurdles, music.

I liked spear throwing [Aged 7]

I liked the pottery [Aged 7]

I liked the face painting and the weaving sticks [Aged 9 and a half]

Montaigne and his Books

11:30 – 12:30, University Library

Number attending: ??

Comments from the public

Very enjoyable & informative
Very knowledgeable lecture with excellent supporting slides.

EVENING EVENTS

Introduction

In collaboration with event co-ordinators, the central Festival team programmed a large programme of 26 evening talks and debates over nine evenings during the Festival.

Visitor comments

General / multiple events attended

Comments from the public

All very good quality talks so far (also medieval China, medieval travel, various lunchtime talks at Fitzwilliam and Arpilleras exhibition) & talks had great atmosphere

Really liked the poetry, drama, arts events. My children loved art & nanoscience, Michelle Paver & bodyPaint. Also enjoyed choices around language & linguistics but couldn't fit them all in.

"Rotten English" - excellent. "The Lives of Others" was fantastic, and Popescu's talk was also interesting

I have enjoyed them all. Well presented & comfortable & easily found venue. Officials very helpful. The quality of presentations has been very high. The choice amazingly diverse. The city & the university are complementary.

More history. For example, ask someone at the Needham Institute to do history of ancient ... science.

V. interesting. Ideas original, outside usual interests. Things that might be useful in the future & A levels.

Excellent lectures. Superb event and very good topic selection.

Interesting/stimulating. A great pleasure for my wife & I. She also enjoyed Montaigne (she leads a U3A group for French speakers). We are both 'retired'.

Generally excellent. Thank you, the contributors the blue-shirted volunteers (they were v helpful and in all the right places! More information about the levels of the events would be helpful, though it was generally v good. The three talks on "How children learn language" were presented to be understood and enjoyed by a wide range of levels of knowledge as were most others. We have thoroughly enjoyed the festival. Please do it again! Only practical problem was that Park & Ride buses don't run late enough for some talks, except on Wednesdays.

I was thrilled that there was a festival of this sort in the first place & immensely pleased to be part of it as a life-long resident of Cambridge. In fact, you will be pleased to know that not only was I impressed & excited by the really quite astonishing number & variety of events but that attending the ones I chose also provided so much intellectual stimulus that I will now embark on something. (A course of academic study of some sort?)

All were stimulating - my particular interest is English Literature so I enjoyed 'Keira Knightley and Atonement' & 'How to read poems' best. The linguistics projects were quite obscure but cheerfully presented: their value was hard to assess.

Insightful and thought provoking. Could gain from a little more interactivity and exchange of ideas with the audience and among academics and students. What about follow up on ideas that emerge?

All have been interesting & generally well presented

Mind blowing

Absolutely gorgeous! I loved being involved in such a variety of events, full of brilliant ideas.

Excellent - well presented, interesting content, stimulating, easy to follow.

Good

All well presented. Attendance patchy e.g. Political hypocrisy packed out, Txting 3/4 full, Resistance in Middle East thin. Got a lot from each session. I've patronised the lectures rather than the exhibitions or the hands-on sessions

I attended quite a few. Overall it is a very very good festival. For the quality of events it totally depends on the speaker and the organiser. Audience are always cooperative and tolerant. If the speaker can prepare better, i.e. not just to fill the slot, not just to give the same talk/lecture that they usually give to Cambridge students, and make it more specific, it would be better. Generally, great festival! Thank you very much.

Into the unknown: medieval travellers, real and imaginary

Wed 22 Oct, 17:00 – 18:00, Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

Number attending: 80

Comments from the public

Fantastic, really interesting

Very interesting talk, especially good images

A subject about which I know nothing, but found very interesting. Just what I hoped for.

Just cycled back from lovely lecture on medieval travellers of Islam at the Middle Eastern & Asian Studies Fac. Just wonderful to think one can just go and hear specialists speak about their field and all for free. Bliss.

Conceptions of press freedom

Wed 22 Oct, 18:00 – 18:45, Babbage Lecture Theatre

Number attending: 110

Comments from the public

I think it would have been better if it had been longer

Thought provoking

Very much enjoyed it. Shall also go to Routledge lecture

Wonderful to hear such an erudite speaker.

Interesting/enlightening

It was interesting & thought provoking

Well worth coming

Great! Clearing delivered and stimulating!

Delightful & well organised - good level of helpful volunteer staff on hand to welcome and make things run smoothly. Lectures timely and interesting.

Very good lecture with good analysis and shareable proposals

Very interesting and thought provoking

The talk by Prof O'Neill was thought provoking, though I wish she was given a longer period of time to discuss the issues in detail.

Excellent

A compelling talk by a first-rate speaker.

Very thought provoking & well prepared & delivered paper

Press freedom in the internet age

Wed 22 Oct, 19:00 – 19:45, Babbage Lecture Theatre

Number attending: 110

Comments from the public

This event was good/interesting. The presentation was clear

Very good - very informative [Lecture 1] Also excellent! [Lecture 2]

Really good to pair one longer talk with a panel, back to back

The panel discussion was worthwhile - a good range of speakers, each of whom made a worthwhile contribution.

I thought it was really well handled. I had only heard of Gerry Gable but I thought all the panellists were very ... & interesting.

Brilliant - eruditely construed yet wonderfully inspiring

China: the world's only super-power in the late first millennium

Thur 23 Oct, 17:00 – 18:00, Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

Number attending: ??

Comments from the public

Very interesting material

Jewish-Muslim relations: the state of play

Thur 23 Oct, 17:30 – 18:30, Mill Lane Lecture Rooms

Number attending: 70

Comments from the public

Did not assume a lot of knowledge of the discussed topic which can be a positive feature. But this led to a less focused approach. The speakers, however, appeared to be well informed.

Well organised and interesting

Well organised. Lecturers very informative. Gave different views concerning religions under discussion.

A well conducted debate. The questions and responses increased my knowledge.

Good. Pitched quite generally.

Very good. Good length & balance between speakers & questions asked.

Excellent; both presentations and ensuing plenary

Interesting but really lack of time to discuss some critical issues.

Very good informative. Fantastic programme of events

Very interesting- not nearly long enough for meaningful discussion. Something like this should be at least 1.5 or 2 hours.

Interesting

Useful

Very informative, well led and organised. Good choice of speakers, well prepared and good audience participation.

Very interesting short talks powered by very lively discussion.

Very interesting but great need to take it further. Need to have more Muslims in the debate.

I really enjoyed this it was very informative.

This is the first event I'm attending. Once I'd found the place I enjoyed the discussion very much and it would have been good to have a 2 hour session,

Informative and encouraging

Informative-interesting exchange of ideas.

Good as far as it went. Thank you.

Extremely good and interesting.

Very positive and interesting

Dead hands: Jane Austen's manuscripts and other puzzles

Thur 23 Oct, 17:30 – 18:30, University Centre

Number attending: 35

Comments from the public

Very interesting & informative.

What good are the arts?

Thur 23 Oct, 19:00 – 20:30, McCrum Lecture Theatre

Number attending: 100

Comments from the public

Very good, especially John Carey & Claire Fox

Thought provoking - many interesting observations on what the arts mean to the panel and members of the audience. No suggestions for other topics.

Excellent. Well balanced discussion in a most congenial venue. After attending 9 other events we would like to congratulate you on this excellent programme. Look forward to next year possibly with more than one microphone for each discussion!!

Fantastic. Even better than anticipated. I had high expectations. It's a fascinating topic - I've got my own strong opinions. So glad I came. Thrilled with whole range of Festival of Ideas opportunities.

Good

Really enjoyed format and content

Good, interesting, thought provoking.

Interesting and varied opinions

Fantastic, interesting, stimulating, engaging

Engaging debate, but at times got a little bogged down in higher education policy

Very good speakers

Sites hard to find

Very enjoyable debate

Cambridge and the meaning of life

Fri 24 Oct, 17:00 – 17:30, Judge Business School

Number attending: 90

Comments from the public

Enjoyed very much. Just the right blend of gentle humour and making one think again - perfect at the end of a very busy week, what a shame it was so short.

Interesting but would have liked more about ideas around creativity and less about university environment/resources etc. Very interesting

Nice to see inside business school buildings and to hear a speaker I'd never otherwise hear

Good! Wish he spoke more/longer. Thanks

Marvellous

Great Lecture, duff microphone, barely audible at times

A real inspiration to any of us who are new to Cambridge. It makes you be proud and passionate to be part of such a place where the ... and eccentric with a method can just prove himself and in trying might change the world.

Informative

Very interesting perspective that as an engineer would not have realised.

The arts mean business

Fri 24 Oct, 18:00 – 19:15, Judge Business School

Number attending: 120

Comments from the public

Doug & Jennifer were the most interesting.

Interest: 10/10. Presentation: 6/10. Found Tim Jones' talk on Citylife fascinating; made me want to find out more and possibly become involved.

Entertaining discussion

Facebook: friendship and social interaction

Sat 25 Oct, 18:30 – 20:00, Michaelhouse

Number attending: 85

Comments from the public

V. interesting; suggested some intriguing ideas and questions. However some statements I felt did not show true representation of cyberlife. I am the facebook generation and I feel that some issues mentioned were not entirely factually based.
Food for thought. Some of it confirms what I have suspected! Good speakers.
Excellent session. Clearly a lot of interest could have been 2 or 3 sessions.
FB great idea, excellent speakers but one too many. Four 20 minute talks in a row is too much. The big idea lively and happening, but I volunteered, so I'm biased.
V. interesting. Good presentations. Panel needed microphones for discussion, too difficult to hear.
Enjoyed the speakers but discussion afterwards was a bit limited by the technology and lack of time.
Interesting speakers; Q&A a bit rushed
Very good to average
Very good
Very interesting, the only problem is that really we needed input from younger speakers.
Sorry
Great idea for consuming my time. I've done some research about social network problems and I thought this event would be useful for my information.
Varied perspectives and well done

Mapping Italy's buried Roman cities Mon 27 Oct, 17:30 – 18:30, Little Hall

Number attending: 49

Comments from the public

V clear lecturer & good at putting research into context
A fascinating insight into a completely new subject. Thank you for the opportunity to explore a new topic
V fine & cutting edge
Very informative & enjoyable
A very interesting and informative talk, well illustrated & presented.
Fantastic!
Fascinating subject
Well pitched - good level for layman
Excellent. Fascinating survey of new techniques, useful & v clear
Excellent - very interesting
V interesting!
This lecture proved very interesting, being a layman.
Good
Excellent
Excellent
Very enthusiastic lecturer. Easy to take notes in , questions answered well.
Very interesting - gave a good impression of the integration of evidence from new technology with more traditional approaches

What's the point of economics? Mon 27 Oct, 17:30 – 18:30, Mill Lane Lecture Rooms

Number attending: 230 (venue at full capacity)

Comments from the public

Excellent presentation by all 3 speakers
Entertaining
I think that the talk addressed major issues of our present day problems with economics
Fantastic. Really clear, relevant, made me think
Very clear and interesting. Brilliant

Interesting speakers providing the stimulus to reconsider financial idea. Pity 2 economic/political topics (European integration & the point of economics) scheduled on the same day! Would love to have attended both.

Loads of info, very interestingly presented, built my understanding, fast paced and fun. Great thanx

Very interesting. Good range of speakers

Very interesting - good that it had comical aspects. Should not have overlapped with another economics talk

Very interesting, engaging (comical) topic. Wish that European politics lecture was not on at the same time, so I could have attended both

Very good

Excellent! Wonderful speakers who made a complex topic understandable for me

Interesting; first two speakers were entertaining

Very interesting. Good mixture of humour & broad aspects, combined with more detailed analysis. Good intro for novices!

Three very engaging speakers and all the talks were accessible and v interesting. Inspired me about economics as a subject!

Excellent, challenging, thoughtful

Lucid, interesting, informative

Very good, but no where near long enough. Too short a period provided for Q&A

Absolutely excellent. Both informative & entertaining. A real education.

Very interesting. I enjoyed the events I went to and hope the format will be repeated. I think that is was publicised less than it deserved

Quite interesting

Excellent! Enjoyed it immensely

I liked it! Some useful info

Good

Brilliant introductory economics but at a higher level

Very good! I understood everything and thought I wouldn't understand!

Excellent - very insightful and through provoking

Splendid!

Excellent. Good speakers. Clear. Interesting talks. Went to 4 events. Hope you do it again

Very interesting, would have liked even longer. Please do more again next year.

The economics talk was very interesting and I learnt a lot from it, there were some very good and almost perfect answers

Excellent

What are the limits of European integration?

Mon 27 Oct, 17:30 – 18:30, University Centre

Number attending: 140 (venue at full capacity)

Comments from the public

Very interesting!

Very informative session by excellent panel!! The room full of people speaks for itself!!

Excellent

First event. Very interesting.

Good. Well known speakers helped - hence the need to reserve seats, because of the popularity of the event. Format worked well

Very interesting

Lively, well paced, most enjoyable, high calibre

Very well chaired. An excellent discussion.

I very much enjoyed this debate. It could have run slightly more smoothly if each speaker had their own microphone.

Eating your way through East Asian history

Tue 28 Oct, 17:00 – 18:00, Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

Number attending: ??

Comments from the public

Great.
Excellent!
Very informative & enjoyable. Well presented.
Fascinating talk. Good visuals too. Excellent attendance!
Very interesting & well organised
Great!
Wonderful and inspiring
Very informative, also very entertaining
It was very interesting, engaging and refreshing
Very interesting and very well delivered
Excellent.
Great, thanks :)
Interesting if brief - would come to something again
Very interesting, an unusual topic
Very interesting! Enjoyable
Interesting. Talk description was misleading, thought it was about China.
Extremely interesting, often offered a hint for further personal study
Excellent. Entertaining
Fascinating and inspiring
Very interesting & thought provoking. Wittily delivered by the lecturer
Interesting!

The art of resistance in the Middle East

Tues 28 Oct, 17:30 – 18:30, Lady Mitchell Hall

Number attending: 65

Comments from the public

Excellent!
Bit disappointing. One speaker could not come, talk did not cover the very part I was interested in!
Very good!
Very good, comprehensive and intelligent. Learned a lot
Excellent!
Very good
Really wonderful - could have sat & listened for hours!
Unique opportunity to see images otherwise denied to us - very interesting, inspiring & ultimately reassuring. Humanity can survive, against all odds.
Fascinating!
Excellent
Excellent!
All events visited so far well managed & organised. However several interesting events clashed - I understand some have been video recorded so hope to see them on the web
Excellent presentation, lively, plenty of time for questions. So many interesting talks/events in the evening have clashed in time - please could more be recorded and made available on the web.
Fantastic! Many views and ideas offered
I really enjoyed the presentation. I thought it was a different way in which one can understand the region. I have enjoyed the Festival overall!
I just wanted to give you some feedback from a talk I went to last night. I heard about the Festival of Ideas through work, and was interested in the talk The Art of Resistance in the Middle East. I am 36 and have lived in Cambridge all my life, I have only taken GCSE's didn't make it to A levels! I was a little nervous about going along to the talk, having never ventured onto university grounds before, I was not sure what to expect. I found the venue easily with the help of the friendly guides around the building. I found

the talk very interesting, the presentation was fantastic and more importantly easy to follow! Thanks very much!

Climb every mountain: the ups and downs of summit diplomacy

Tues 28 Oct, 17:30 – 18:30, Michaelhouse

Number attending: 50

Comments from the public

V. good

Brilliant talk. Michealhouse not good as a lecture location.

Very good

Stimulating & entertaining

I think that it was very enlightening particularly since it deals with a subject I'm not familiar about. He tried to make the conversation well rounded and easy to follow for anyone new.

Informative & thought provoking. Whole ideas of Festival of Ideas is excellent! Hard work of presenters & stewards/organisers much appreciated.

Excellent content. Poor venue (Michaelhouse) - proper lecture theatre would be preferable

Excellent. Overall the Festival was not very widely advertised. I spoke to many people who did not know it was on until too late

Cambridge ancient and modern: the architecture of the Colleges and University

Tues 28 Oct, 19:00 – 20:00, Michaelhouse

Number attending: 100 (venue at full capacity)

Comments from the public

Excellent

Tour de force

V. good. Very informative

Excellent. Would be good to have tea/coffee. Also to have screen a bit higher.

very interesting lecture & very good slides

This was very informative and enjoyable - v. good speaker. Other events great too.

Excellent talk

Very interesting!

Very interesting, well prepared, colourful, easy to understand, eye/mind opening

Well presented, very informative and very enjoyable

Excellent

Extraordinary! Wonderful!

Wonderful walk through Cam architecture

Excellent talk. Excellent speaker

Interesting

Excellent. Full of facts & beautifully illustrated with slides. V. comprehensive in coverage.

Following a theme, elaborated with illustrations. Thanks!

Keira Knightley's costume – Atonement in film and fiction

Wed 29 Oct, 17:00 – 17:45, Lady Mitchell Hall

Number attending: 35

Comments from the public

Excellent, perceptive, insightful. Must read the book again.

Very interesting and I enjoyed it a lot

Excellent!

Excellent

Excellent

Some of them were really interesting and stimulating. I was overwhelmed by the cultural and academic atmosphere in Cambridge indeed
Very interesting indeed - more interesting than the title suggests! What a shame there weren't more people here. Thank you very much
A very interesting talk making comparisons between book & film
Very interesting
Very informative & interesting talk
Very interesting indeed. I have learned a lot from the colour lecture especially. And something from Atonement I have to admit

Millennia of colour making

Wed 29 Oct, 18:00 – 18:45, Lady Mitchell Hall

Number attending: 35

Comments from the public

Really well organised & good welcome by stewards. The speaker had a clear focused slide presentation which illustrated all the aspects of his original & intriguing talk. His knowledge & experience made the subject superbly informative - and intriguing throughout. Thank you - a most worthwhile evening.

Excellent

Superb projected images illustrating an excellent lecture.

Very interesting thanks

Fascinating oversight - leaves the audience wanting more!

Excellent

Excellent - full of interesting detail. But lecture room was cold and it was a bit difficult to hear

Really informative - I liked the historical references and time line

Range of events in content, style, target audience and timing is remarkable. The short presentations followed by panel discussion have been particularly successful

Fascinating

Good

Not a subject we knew much about but a very interesting lecture.

Microphone is needed in Lady Mitchell Hall. Would the speaker please repeat questions from the audience.

Very informative & entertaining

Very interesting

Does it all add up? Do Oscar winners live longer and left-handers die younger?

Thur 30 Oct, 17:00 – 18:00, Mill Lane Lecture Rooms

Number attending: 90

Comments from the public

V interesting, informative & entertaining

Very fascinating! I love the way he explains probability and statistical fallacies, but time flies too quickly

Informative, eye-opening, entertaining

Excellent and very entertaining

Variable

Fantastic!

Fantastic!

Informative and entertaining

Excellent so far

Excellent - good range but could do with more science based talks

Very interesting & well presented

GREAT. RELEVANT, TOPICAL AND FREE! Also great timing as it means lots of people can go straight after work. Brochure was a little confusing. I would have preferred a list of everything in date & time order rather than in sections.

All excellent. This talk very interesting and moderately entertaining too.
Very entertaining & informative
Very interesting
First rate
Excellent & amusing lecture, also informative.
Nicely laid out venue. Well organised, good staffing. Very well presented, but too many ideas to follow for a non-statistician. However, a very enjoyable event.
Excellent!

The Third Reich at war

Thur 30 Oct, 18:15 – 19:00, Mill Lane Lecture Rooms

Number attending: 120

Comments from the public

Prof Evans spent most of his lecture describing how he wrote his books and left far too little time for the supposed subject of his lecture. Academic narcissism, not fair to his audience who had expected more substance.

Informative. Interesting

V. good

Very good

Excellent - too short!!

Excellent!

A large subject which was covered well in a short time. Interesting.

An illuminating invitation to read his works

High standard

Very impressed

Some illustrations would have been welcome. More personal stories of German civilians to answer "How did it feel to live through the war?"

Excellent

Uniformly successful & thought provoking

Good, coherent

Very friendly & accessible

Good level of lecture - privileged to hear the speaker, Richard Evans.

Excellent

On the whole extremely good - wide range of topics. All of people well informed

I did not know that it was about a book when I decided to go. Thus I was a bit disappointed at first but in the end it was a very enjoyable and good lecture

Excellent. Should have been longer!!

Routledge lecture in philosophy: Iris Murdoch and the rejection of existentialism

Thur 30 Oct, 17:15 – 18:30, Little Hall

Number attending: ??

Comments from the public

A bit too much like an undergraduate lecture. Could have done with a brief 'new readers start here' introduction

Most entertaining!

The Importance of Nietzsche

Fri 31 Oct, 17:00 – 17:45, Little Hall

Number attending: 80

Comments from the public

Very interesting. Excellent & gripping

Good

Enabled me to know more about philosophy & its relation to the modern world

Excellent

Excellent

The talk was well presented with a good use of media and examples to illustrate, given the length of time. Also, the talk did not shy away from any politicisation of Nietzsche, which I appreciate in these days of domestication.

Well organised, very interesting - not too high level. Great

Very good. Concise, informative & challenging

Lovely :)

Excellent

Informative and interesting

Fantastic!

Great! Reawakened my interest in the subject, very accessible. Thank you

:)

Good lecture. Interference on speakers - earth problem?

This talk was very interesting. It was a lot to cover in a short time and at times demanding to follow but I would now like to read more on the topic. So, in that sense, the objective has in some ways been met!

Excellent!

Excellent

Very interesting & worthwhile

Very good initiative! Thank you

Excellent - perhaps slightly too short - another 15 minutes?

This was excellent and I particularly liked audio/visual. Risky! (I teach myself) but it made the lecture even better.

Good Qs from audience, clear presentation - simple & effective

Exploring Languages

Fri 31 Oct, 17:15 – 18:45, Mill Lane Lecture Rooms

Number attending: 160

Comments from the public

Excellent! Really valuable talk(s) which are extracurricular and enriching knowledge

Excellent. Really learnt a lot

V. well presented & informative

Excellent

Very well presented and informative

Very interesting

A good introduction

Fascinating. Well presented.

Extremely interesting and entertaining

Very good lively talk, at introductory level. Good use of slides and video - most entertaining

Very interesting & illuminating

Good talk. Great to have two different speakers on same subject

Very interesting & informative. Nice to see good turn out of people.

Fascinating and entertaining.

Very interesting

Fascinating lecture, thanks!

Totally splendid - very informative, thought provoking and entertaining, giving complex ideas & controversies in a charming relaxed way.

Absolutely fascinating. Thought provoking. Entertaining, amusing, educational. Definitely the best session I've been to in this festival

Great talk - good level of difficulty

Touching the core: Lorca, art and the emotions

Fri 31 Oct, 18:00 – 18:45, Little Hall

Number attending: 30

Comments from the public

Found it very interesting even though I have no knowledge of Spanish (attended as my son is studying Spanish)

Great. It gave me the illusion of being more intelligent than I actually am

Interesting & thought provoking

Excellent

Very interesting & leaves much for contemplation

Clear & interpreted sympathetically & with obvious experience.

Amores Perros

Fri 24 Oct, 17:00 – 19:30, Faculty of Music

Number attending: 25

Comments from the public

Excellent

Very good intro. Excellent film

Very good. Very useful introduction & well organised

Very interesting

Paris je t'aime

Tues 28 Oct, 17:00 – 19:30, Faculty of Music

Number attending: 30

Comments from the public

Enjoyed film very much.

The Lives of Others

Fri 31 Oct, 17:00 – 19:30, Faculty of Music

Number attending: 30

Comments from the public

Thought provoking film. Introduction enabled greater understanding

A powerful film - worthy of all its credits - hopefully we can all learn from such events

Lecture interesting. Film excellent. Thank you

Brilliant

Excellent. Wonderful film - made even more interesting with the introduction. Well done.

Writing lives: Penelope Lively at the Fitzwilliam Museum

Thur 23 Oct, 18:30 – 20:30, Fitzwilliam Museum

Number attending: ??

Comments from the public

Excellent

Brilliant! Good venue, excellent sound system. Excellent speaker.

Participating in the arts: a prescription for health improvement?

Thur 30 Oct, 18:00 – 19:30, Fitzwilliam Museum

Number attending: pre-booking required, 49 spaces available, 44 booked [and also more available to book direct from Fitz?]

Comments from the public

Good speaker (intro too long). Interesting, tho' needed more specific info.

EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL

Introduction

Running throughout the Festival were a wide variety of events and activities for all interests and ages. These were hosted by both University departments and museums, but also by many partner organisations from within the local community.

The visitor comments below give a taste of just some of the many activities that were on offer, which included language taster sessions, hands on workshops, film screenings, tours, exhibitions and debates.

The Festival of Ideas also consisted of five longer running projects, which took place over a number of weeks or months, and are detailed below.

The Big Draw

The Festival of Ideas ran alongside The Big Draw, a national initiative that takes place throughout October and promotes and encourages drawing as an educational and creative tool.

Working in partnership with the The Campaign for Drawing the co-ordinators behind The Big Draw, the Festival of Ideas organised a one day professional development course in Power Drawing in May 2008. 30 individuals from within the University and community partner organisations took part in this course, which was for museum and heritage educators, artists and University staff and aimed to increase knowledge, skills and confidence in drawing as a tool for learning, engagement and enjoyment. All participants on the course were encouraged to take part in the Festival of Ideas by hosting a Big Draw event.

To celebrate The Big Draw all of the University museums and a number of external partner organisations held Big Draw events during the Festival. These were promoted on a dedicated Big Draw webpage on the Festival website.

The Science of Musical Sound on the ArtSbus

This schools project was a partnership between the Festival of Ideas, stART – supporting arts development, the Whipple Museum of the History of Science, and the Stagecoach ArtSbus.

Using elements of the Whipple's collection as inspiration, and using the ArtSbus as a mobile classroom, this project brought interactive sessions to young people in South Cambridgeshire, encouraging them to participate in the new University of Cambridge Festival of Ideas.

The interactive sessions were delivered on the ArtSbus by Sam Bennett, an engineering PhD candidate at King's College, Cambridge, supported by Gillian Hunter, violinist and Arts Development Manager for the Swavesey area. Workshops focused on visualising musical sound using a Chladni plates experiment and computer visualisation. The ideas of frequency and volume were introduced, and the concept of sound as vibrations in air. The sessions also analysed short pieces of music using computer visualisation, including recordings of the students' voice and of Gillian's violin.

Young people who participated were encouraged to create a drawing or piece of art which represented their way of "seeing sound" based on what they have learned in the workshop. These were displayed at the Whipple Museum during the Festival of Ideas.

The ArtSbus can accommodate approximately 15 young people at a time and workshops were 30 minutes in length. Over the week running 13 – 17 October the project visited 7 different secondary schools and gave 26 sessions, reaching in total 390 children KS 3.

This project was a great success, receiving very positive feedback from both the children and teachers at the schools visited. The Science of Musical Sound sessions will now be given as part of the Cambridge Science Festival 2009.

Comments from the schools

Thank you so much for giving your time up to teach us, I love learning about sound, I will try to come to the Museum.

I liked how you can make different shapes with sound.

I really enjoyed this session, thank you very much.

It was interesting how to see sound.

Really interesting – Good fun!

Such a lovely experience for all of our students – please come again!

Illuminate competition

This competition, run as a partnership between the Festival of Ideas and Cambridgeshire Libraries, invited members of the public to design an illuminated manuscript on the theme 'Days are where we live'. Those entering the competition were asked to write a diary entry or a description of a day in their life, which was then decorated with pictures, patterns and borders. The competition had two age groups, 11+ and 18+, with prizes of an ipod, donated by John Lewis, and £100 book token, donated by Heffers.

The competition was launched during the Festival on Saturday 25th October, with a talk entitled 'How to illuminate an elephant' given by Christopher de Hamel, Fellow of Corpus Christi College, and Librarian at the Parker Library.

As part of the competition and the Festival of Ideas there were also a number of free workshops and visits for members of the public. These included a visit to the Cambridgeshire County Council Archives with a talk by Principal Archivist Philip Saunders; a visit to see the Fitzwilliam Museums illuminated manuscript competition with a talk by Dr Stella Panayotova Keeper of Manuscripts and Printed Books, two visits to Corpus Christi College's Parker Library with Christopher de Hamel and two visits to St John's College Old Library with Special Collections Librarian Jonathan Harrison.

The competition ran throughout the Festival until the end of January, and there will be an exhibition of winning entries with a prize giving in the Michaelhouse Centre at the end of March.

Text poetry competition

The Festival launched a text poetry competition to tie in with Professor David Crystal's talk at the Festival, 'Can texting make you more literate?' We received over 60 entries, many from young people, and the judging panel, consisting of the Festival Co-ordinator, Professor Crystal and Professor Adrian Poole, Faculty of English selected the a poem about the perils of being young in 21st century Britain by 16-year-old Shaunna Morris from Woodbridge as the winner:

Im yng, Im doomd 4gtn gnrtn.
Lyfs jst bgun n ur tlkin crdit infln,
futra accom, livin situatns.
Ht or eat?
Go grn, rcycle!
Sve wtr.
Blme my gen-we wr hodys!

Notebook exhibition

Ruth Abbott, a PhD student in English who had taken part in the University's outreach training scheme, Rising Stars, curated an exhibition of creative notebooks kept by people working in fields as diverse as poetry, architecture, dance and DJ-ing. This was exhibited at the Michaelhouse Centre, and a short film was made about the ways in which these practitioners used drafting and re-drafting as part of the creative process.

Visitor comments

General / multiple events attended

Comments from the public

I attended several lectures - three ones on China and one on the Third Reich plus a talk at the Fitzwilliam. I thought they were all absolutely excellent and felt (still feel) immensely stimulated from attending these. Judging by the 'buzz' around Cambridge, I should think the whole event was extremely successful. I am looking forward to next year's Festival.

I am so pleased to read of the web page that there will be another FOI next year. I attended many events- poetry events, history lectures, a walking tour, art lectures, exhibitions- and all of them were so very interesting and stimulating. Inevitably with such a diverse array of events, some of interest to me clashed, so please do not feel embarrassed to repeat events in forthcoming years. I am very grateful to the university for reaching out to residents in this manner.

I was very impressed by the range on offer and believe it's an excellent idea. Too many people still think Cambridge University is aloof. These events break down barriers and are stimulating

Excellent. Right level for all. Engaging, imaginative, informative.

So far, they have been educational, open, creative, applicable for all ages. Brilliant!

Absolutely great, I went to 11 events. Pitched at suitable levels – for intelligent uninitiated. I feel privileged.

A thousand years of beautiful books

Tues 28 Oct, 10:00 – 11:00, 11:00 – 12:00, 14:00 – 15:00, St John's College Library

Number attending: pre-booking required, 45 spaces available, fully booked

Comments from the public

This 11am - 1pm session was outstanding. The librarian was so enthusiastic and informative. The talk was clear and cleverly chronologically progressive. The books shown were magnificent and succinctly & fascinatingly explained. The hands-on follow up by Penny Price could not have been more skilfully demonstrated. All the equipment & materials were to hand and the activity well timed within a limited time & most satisfyingly finished. The techniques were a clear illustration of how manuscripts were executed & all explanations relevant and succinct. A really outstanding morning. Thank you.

This was absolutely brilliant! The talk was informative, very interesting and it was really great to make a manuscript!

Warm welcome, wonderful lecturer (informed, enthusiastic & willing to involve everyone), splendid collection of books & a magnificent old library.

Children's responses to What did you like best?

The manuscripts because it's fun doing the painting and gold [Aged 11]

I liked making the illumination [Aged 7]
I didn't like anything best. I just liked everything [Aged 8]

Fens through a lens photography exhibition

22 Oct – 31 Oct, Museum of Zoology

Comments from the public

Some wonderful photographs, especially the scenic ones. The standard of technology was very high.

Light: drawing workshop

Tues 28 Oct, 11:00 – 13:00, Kettle's Yard

Comments from the public

I stayed for the entire workshop and would have my children participate again in future. I thought Helen presented the different techniques very well and my kids enjoyed the workshop very much

My kids really enjoyed it and would love to see a full day workshop in the future - great!
Can we have more of this session please!

Children's responses to What did you like best?

Kettles yard Art-light workshop [Aged 10]

Looking at the light and shadows. Making something to take home [Aged 8]

Nature: sculpture workshop

Wed 29 Oct, 10:00 – 12:00, Kettle's Yard

Comments from the public

Very creative!! Thanks

Thank you

Great - wonderful to have them in Cambridge

Children's responses to What did you like best?

Making a stained glass window [Aged 5]

We got to see spiders' webs and make a model [Aged 6 & 7]

Open book: open home

Mon 27 Oct, 11:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 16:00, Kettle's Yard

Number attending: 71

Comments from the public

Excellent - just enough guidance without being prescriptive. Really caught my 4-year-old's attention

Involving and stimulating (for adults as well as children). My 13 yr old dreaded another programme of "family" activities involving crayons and pre-printed colouring sheets, but has enjoyed himself at least as much as his younger brother and sister. The younger two now want to write their own book about our house.

So amazing!! And creative. Everyone so enthusiastic. Thoroughly recommend it. Love to come back again

Very good indeed. Lovely facilitator (Alex) who was filled with energy, enthusiasm & obvious knowledge. It also felt very privileged to be wandering around Kettle's Yard House drawing things & making books

Thank you! Lots of new ideas for half term!

Children's responses to What did you like best?

Lots of things to draw. I like the house pictures [Aged 5]

Making the books and drawing. And I also liked it because the grown-ups joined in to! [Aged 11]

I enjoyed the event. I learnt how to make books. I would definitely come again. I liked making different shaped books best. Great fun. Thank you [Aged 7]

The City Wakes events

Comments from the public

A comprehensive and worthwhile tour of where they were born/lived and went to school. The guide read excerpts from their songs/poems at appropriate moments and this added greatly to the tour. The guide admitted she was on a learning curve about Pink Floyd, and although she was very helpful, you cannot beat knowledge & insight on the subject!

This was a fine show, well executed, with excellent musicians and singers. However, we would have liked more of the songs to have been closer to the original versions. What happened to "Golden hair"?? The lighting was very atmospheric and appropriate - well done!

An excellent exhibition which was a fascinating insight into the artist's life. Very helpful and informative staff. Many thanks to all those who loaned their precious art work for the exhibition.

Town and gown walk

Sat 25 Oct, Thur 30 Oct, 10:00 – 12:00

Number attending: pre-booking required, 50 spaces available, fully booked

Comments from the public

Excellent. Well judged selection of content. Clear delivery. Likeable person to spend 2 hours with.

It was thoroughly enjoyable and quite informative.

Lots to do and very well organised. Good signage

A walk through Medieval Cambridge

Thur 30 Oct, 10:00 – 11:30

Number attending: pre-booking required, 12 spaces available, fully booked

Comments from the public

Excellent format with two different guides describing their specialist areas from Anglo-Saxon to the Peasants Revolt. Good to link history of town with the physical areas of its development. Good to have younger academics sharing their knowledge with us.

Very informative. Friendly & personalised. Would highly recommend.

Very worthwhile. Great to see enthusiastic young students sharing their knowledge with wider world!

Anglia Ruskin University

Sat 1 Nov

Comments from the public

Excellent! Loved it. Well organised & covered all parts of brief.

The materials of inspiration: workshop for adults

Fri 31 Oct, 14:00 – 16:00, Fitzwilliam Museum

Comments from the public

It was really excellent, better even than I was expecting. It was a great idea to visit the gallery first and see how the materials/techniques were applied by Rubens in his sketches, and then to be introduced to the materials themselves. Spike has a talent for making it all accessible and his enthusiasm was infectious. It was a very enjoyable couple of hours.

"Oh yes you can!" pantomime workshops

Wed 29 Oct, Fri 31 Oct, Cambridge Arts Theatre

Pre-booking required, via Arts Theatre

Comments from the public

Emily thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime workshop with her friend - it was a wonderful experience and we are very grateful, thank you! Also she enjoyed the Caroline Lawrence talk - v. good!

Wonderfully organised, great staff. Fully accessible - both financially/disability
It was fantastic the costumes and the acting!

Children's responses to What did you like best?

I got to wear a big pink wig because I was one of the ugly sisters. I got the new Caroline Lawrence book [Aged 11]

Acting out our part and watching other people's plays [Aged 8]

I liked dressing up [Aged 8]

Everything [Aged 9]

SUGGESTED TOPICS FROM VISITORS FOR THE FUTURE

A focus on Medieval & Classical History. More activities for teenagers/young adults.
Africa & Latin America & India
Ancient libraries in other Cambridge Colleges (e.g. Trinity or Magdalene). A chance to see
College art collections not normally open to the public
Anything else on language, thought, development etc
Anything historical! More music!
Archaeology & architecture
Art & design, ICT, design technology
Art history
Arts & crafts - more hands on, more authors, arts talks. Would be better in the spring.
Arts (e.g. cinema, theatre), human rights, politics. Talks/events lead by more big names.
More evening events so that people working 9 - 5 can attend.
Batman's costume and its development
Black history month
Bob Dylan, Nick Cave, Radiohead
Calligraphy - Chinese, Arabic, medieval
Cambridge chapels stained glass
Climate change, modern Islam, modern religion in Europe
Comparison of world literature and culture
Contemporary art exhibition of famous artists
Darwin & philosophy
Democracy
Drama. Roman stuff
Drawing and painting animals
Economics, politics, gender
European union. Identity and solidarity
Even more for children please
Financial, economics & stock exchange
Food is a good topic - something on trade routes & central Asia
Free speech, how to deal with environmental issues, arts & identity, Immigration
Game theory
History of medicine & related themes
How money goes around the system (helping children understand money in practical way)
Human rights
Humanitarian, human rights, justice.
Perhaps more workshops/hands-on activities?
I would not add to the present selection. Choice is difficult enough as it is.
Influence of Marco Polo & Silk Road in general
Jungian/archetypal psychology; myths are living influences
Law and social affairs
Literary criticism
Many subjects were far less well represented than English literature & language e.g. ethics,
psychology, law, social science etc
More activities relating to different periods of history
More adult lectures: literature and science topics.
More dance? I think everything else is covered
More exhibitions of special topics in each library
More faculties involved - arts
More from the College libraries to allow public to glimpse some of the treasures you have
More guided works including tours of the colleges.
More health topics!!
More like a 'Thousand years of beautiful books, to enthral children under 14.
More like this!!
Music
None, brochure good already
Opera
Other philosophers

Paintings & arts

Personally, would enjoy more Cambridge-related projects... like the tour of medieval Cambridge. Was v sad that I could not join the small group on its ONE excursion.

Philosophy

Privacy & security in the internet age/what is privacy now?

Psychology/sociology

Quran/bible compare

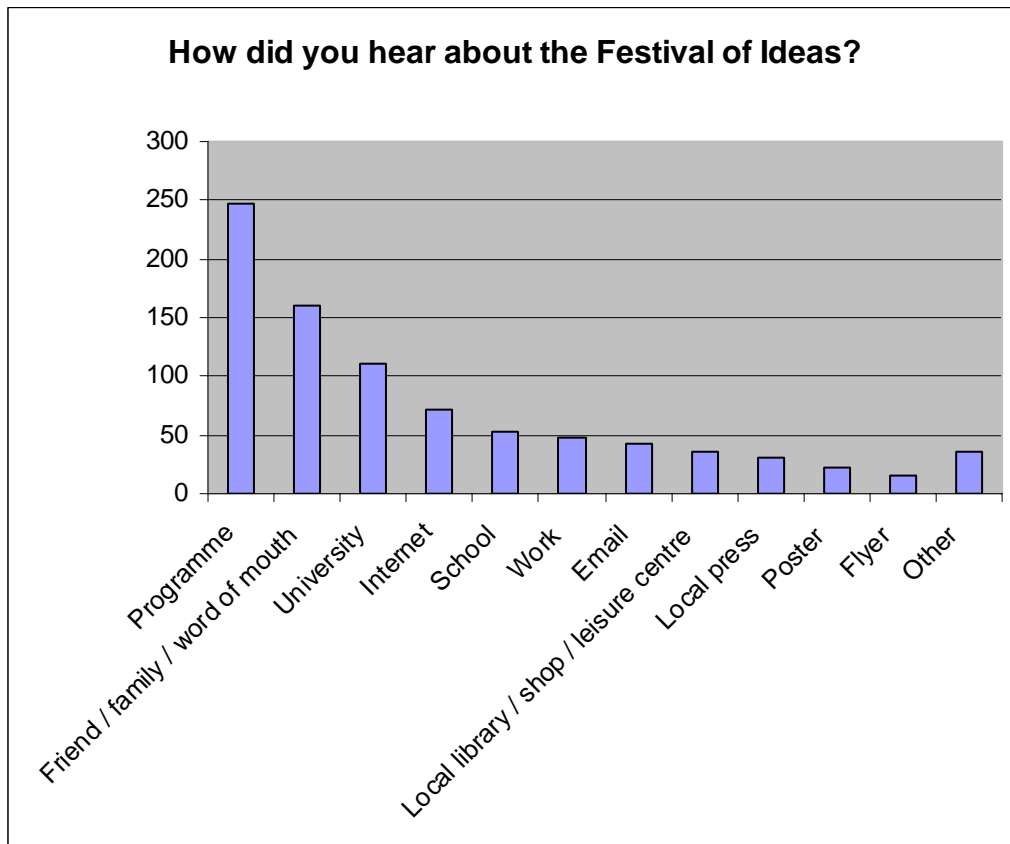
There should be more guided walks round Cambridge. I'd have liked to join the town & gown walk, but it was already fully booked.

There were so many topics on offer this year as well that I don't think that anything is missing

Whatever is topical & cutting edge in research

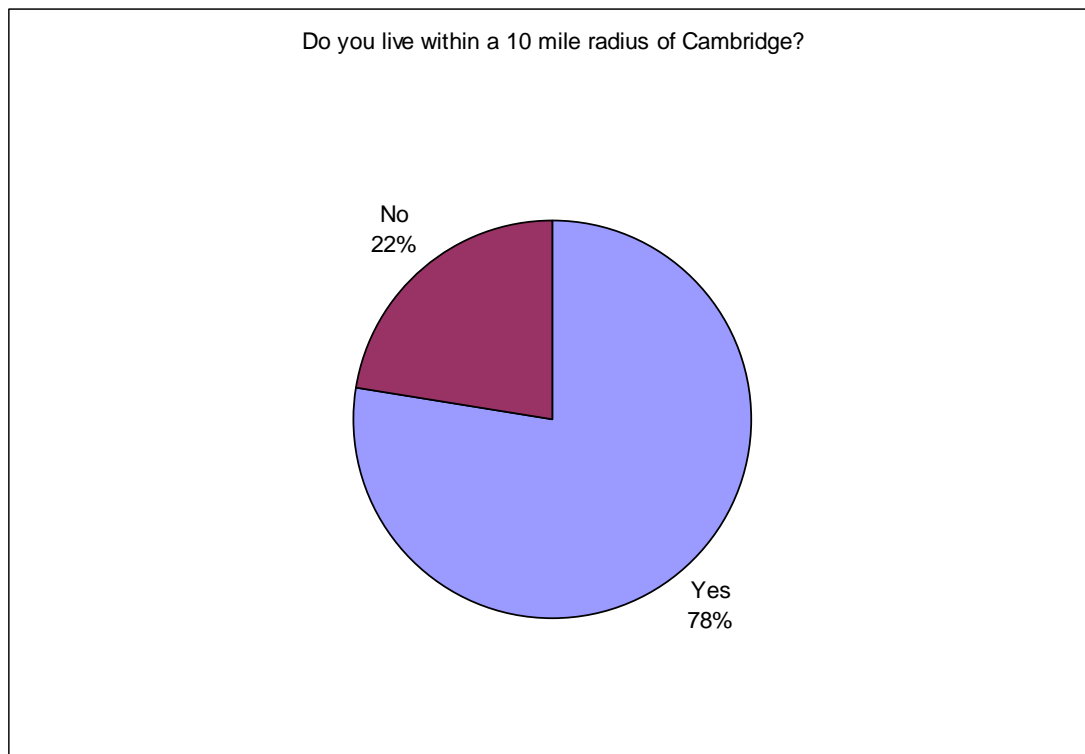
Who/what caused the 2008 recession?

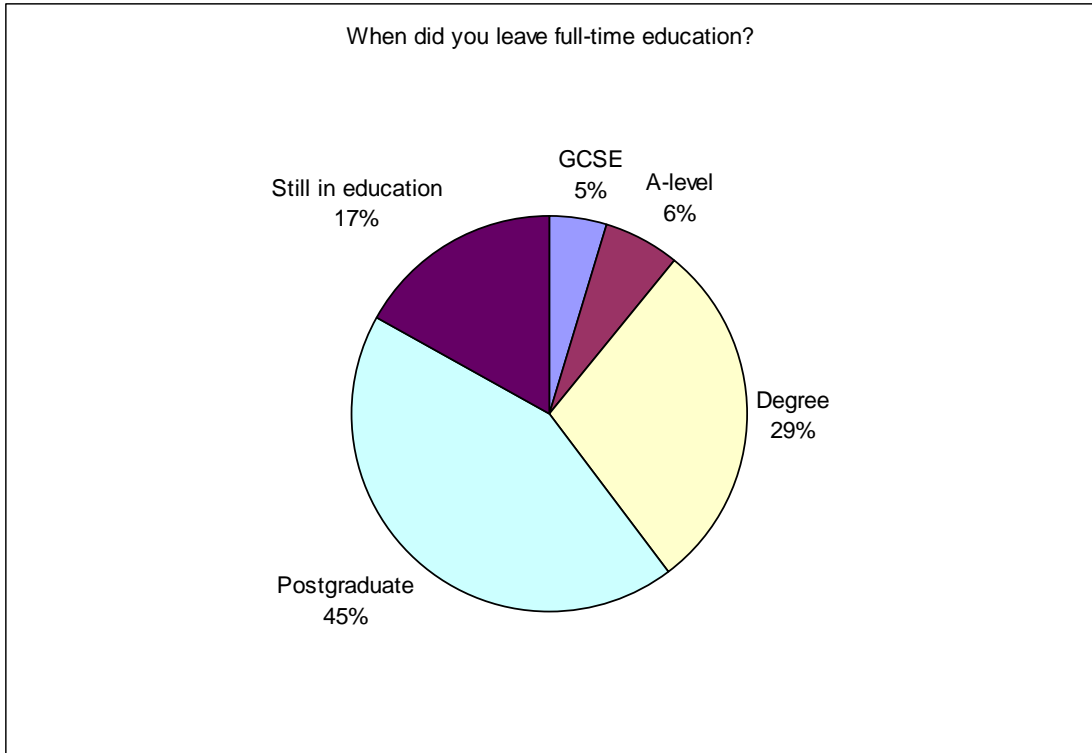
Visitor Statistics and Marketing Evaluation



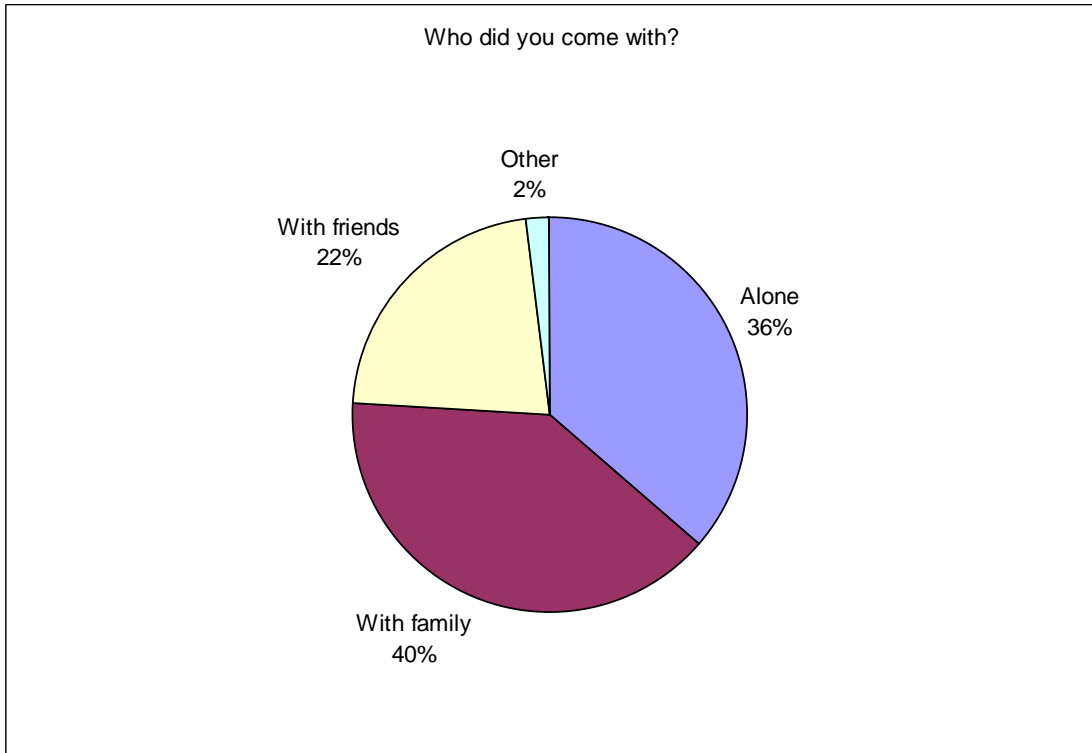
n = 872 (some respondents ticked more than one box)

n = 735

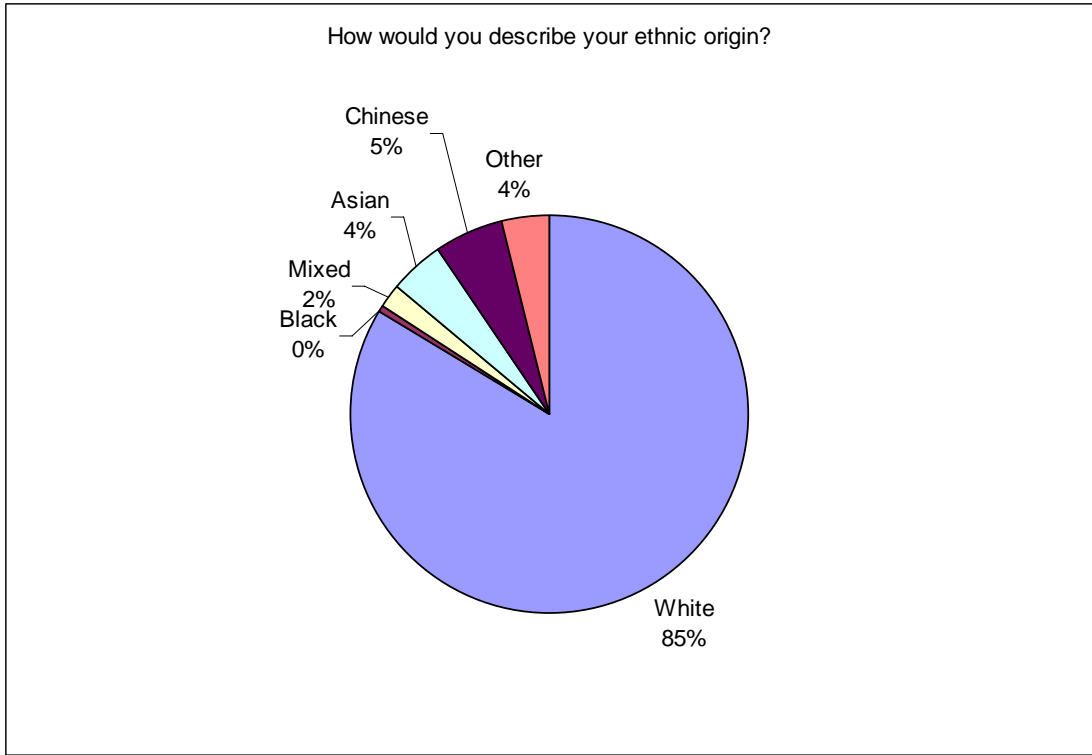




n = 735

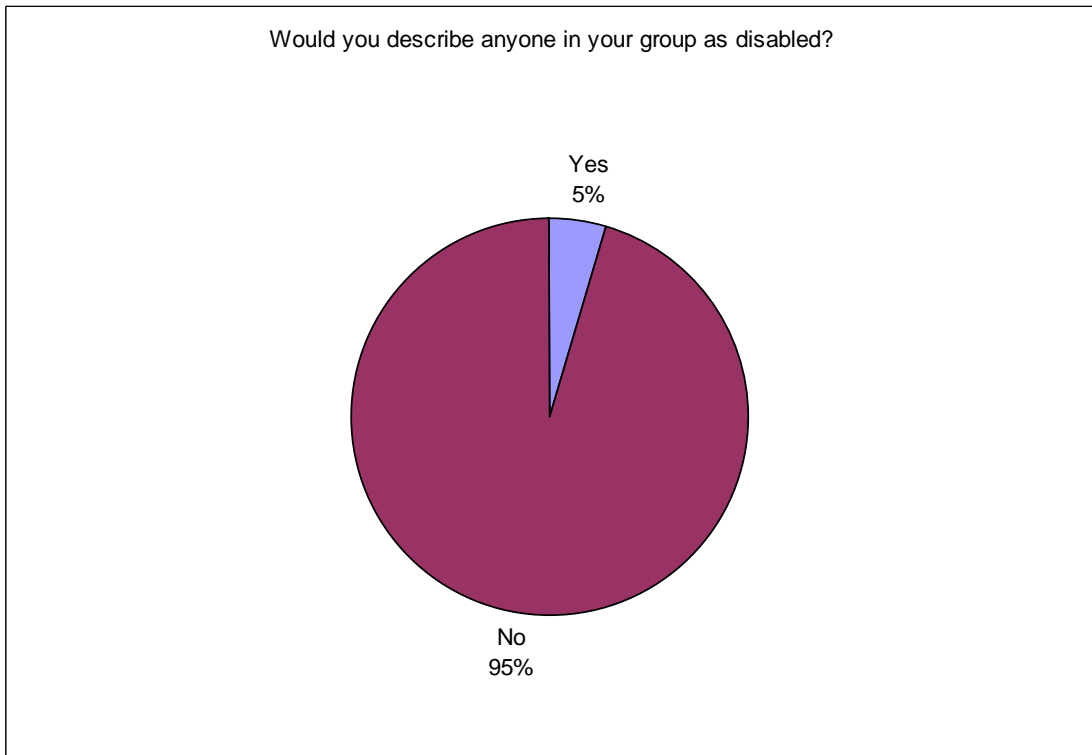


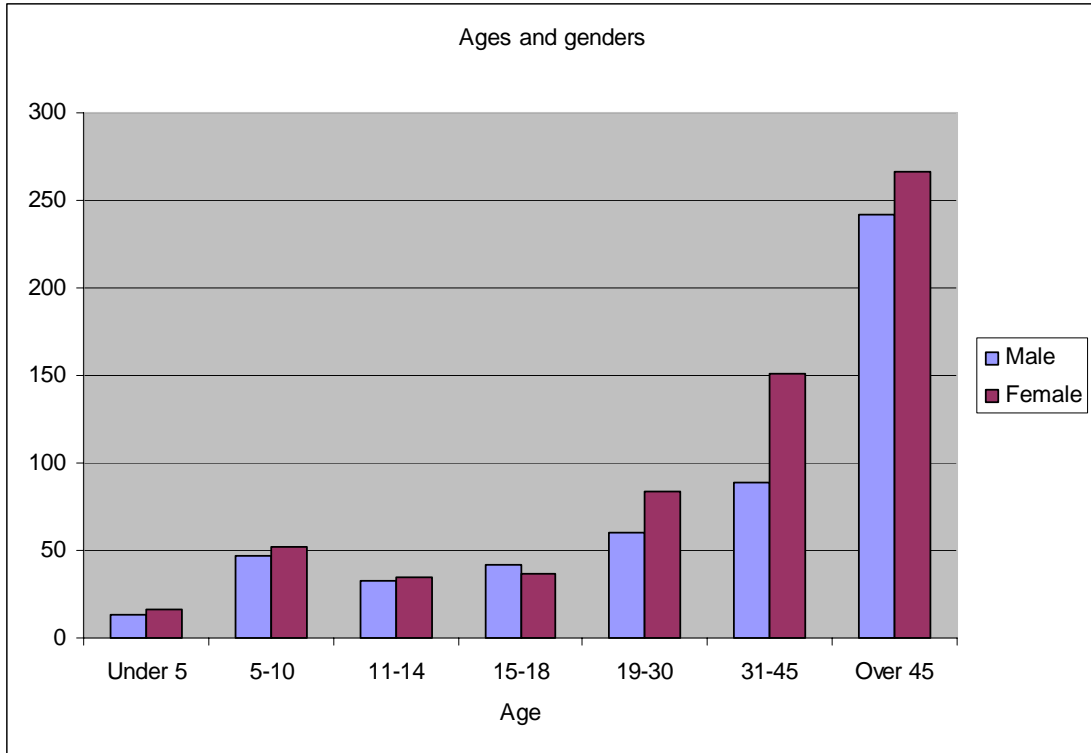
n = 774



n = 747

n = 652





n = 1167 (respondents replied about ages of multiple members of their party)

PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

Introduction

We printed 45,000 full-colour copies of the Festival programme, available from early September and distributed to schools, community centres, libraries, businesses, and University public mailing lists (including recipients of 'What's On').

An extensive marketing plan was put into practice with the outstanding help of colleagues in the Community Affairs team, including targeting community groups and asking for help with email dissemination regarding the new Festival.

Our partners in staging the Festival also helped us substantially to market the new Festival.

Website

The Festival website was launched in July 2008 at www.festivalofideas.org and had a number of interactive elements including the text poetry competition as well as video on the Notebook exhibition.

Media coverage

The Festival of Ideas received coverage from local, national and international, print and broadcast media.

Print and online media

October	University of Cambridge Staff Newsletter <i>The first Festival of Ideas</i>
2/10/08	BBC East Online <i>Cambridge Festival of Ideas 2008</i>
17/10/08	Local Secrets <i>What's the big idea?</i>
17/10/08	BBC East Online <i>Press freedom debated at Festival</i>
17/10/08	Cambridge Evening News <i>Text poetry competition</i>
20/10/08	Cambridge Evening News <i>Author to open Festival</i>
23/10/08	The New York Times <i>Happy 400th birthday</i>
23/10/08	BBC News <i>Milton marathon for anniversary</i>
23/10/08	Cambridge Evening News <i>What's the big idea?</i>
24/10/08	BBC East Online <i>Facebook improves social skills</i>
25/10/08	The Times

Top five events

- 26/10/08 Independent
Spot the genius
- 26/10/08 Sunday Telegraph
Vikings preferred male grooming to pillaging
- 28/10/08 Guardian
Political hypocrisy – don't you hate it?
- 28/10/08 Cambridge Evening News
Fruit lanterns carry hopes for the future
- 28/10/08 Net India 123
Vikings
- 28/10/08 The Times
'I turned it into a palace' at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

Broadcast media

- 21/10/08 BBC Radio Cambridgeshire
Nicola Buckley – Festival of Ideas
- 21/10/08 Q103
Mandy Garner – Festival of Ideas
- 23/10/08 Anglia
Nicola Buckley and David Crystal – Text poetry
- 24/10/08 BBC Radio Cambridgeshire
Ruth Abbot - The Notebook Project
- 25/10/08 BBC Look East
David Crystal – Text Poetry
- 25/10/08 BBC Radio 4 Today Programme
David Crystal – Text Poetry
- 25/10/08 BBC Five Live
David Crystal – Text Poetry
- 25/10/08 Radio Salaam Shalom
Podcast – 'Jewish-Muslim relations: the state of play'
- 25/10/08 BBC Radio Wales
David Runciman – Political hypocrisy
- 27/10/08 Australian ACB Radio Breakfast Show
Elizabeth Ashman-Rowe – Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic
- 30/10/08 Newstalk Radio (Dublin)
Elizabeth Ashman-Rowe – Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic
- 30/10/08 Talk 107 (Scotland)
Elizabeth Ashman-Rowe – Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic

ACTIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE

Introduction

As the first ever festival of its kind to celebrate the arts, humanities and social sciences, both at the University and in the UK, it has been very important to thoroughly evaluate the pilot Festival of Ideas to provide guidance for future years.

This report contains feedback gathered throughout the Festival, from visitors, event organisers and members of the Steering Group, assessing specific events, but also more general issues regarding the planning and organisation of the Festival.

Visitor comments

Better publicity to local schools

Could you give more advance notice of the list of events next year, please?

Do it well, not so big, concentrate on a few

If there's any criticism of this amazing collection of events, it's that Sat 25 Oct was overloaded and more should have been spread through the half term week.

Love to see more during school term time then we could bring our classes too

More interactive hands-on for 4-6 yrs

Next time for the Festival: Better signage to venues; A clearer brochure; Weekday evening starts no earlier than 17.30

Several things we tried to sign up for were either cancelled or fully booked. You could have advertised more widely through secondary schools

Small point: in the brochure it would help to write the day as well as the date e.g. Tues 29th Oct

Suggest you have an email/RSS feed each day giving that day's events. Topics: electronic information/publishing/religion & film/contemporary music/social theory.

There are far too many already!

Too many things that they wanted to see at the same time

Transport - difficult to know where to go/park if cycling

The events were excellent - but the programme so disorganised and overloaded then I could not get to events in time and had to leave many before the end. The organisers should learn from the hopelessly over grown Science Festival. It must either have fewer events, spread them over a longer time (why not more on Sunday?) or repeat talks if they are popular. PS Superb programme but no maps of Sidgwick/Downing sites made finding venues difficult.

Event Co-ordinators comments

There was confusion over whether the number of spaces available to pre-book, was the total number of spaces for adults and children or the number of children without accompanying adults being counted.

It went very well, considering it was the first time they/we have done this.

There were perhaps too many talks. It was even hard to find stuff in the programme booklet.

Thanks for arranging all this. I was impressed at how smoothly everything ran, and loved that some of the volunteers wanted to be excused "stairs" duty because they wanted to see the talk.

Are you confident you picked up on the interest in schools? Audiences, on weekday evenings at least, seem more elderly.

Printed programme wasn't easy to navigate. Suggest a straightforwardly chronological structure. Also please print the days of the week and not just dates.

My only particular feedback would be to promote working across departments and subject areas and having an open session where those that might want to work with someone different can come together and meet like-minded folk. I think the museums, galleries and botanic gardens are very well placed to provide experience in public engagement

that could support working with other parts of the University, we just need enough notice to establish those links.

I would say with the event I worked at that it was so popular that it was a battle to appease people. Some people had come from Peterborough, one even from the Midlands?! to do the workshop. I would definitely make this pre-booking next year and have a bigger space where people could book in advance as there were a few people who were angry that they couldn't get in the room as I had to crowd control.

I think the fact that names are not attached to workshops works against people like me who have led poetry sessions in Cambridge for years and might have attracted a bigger audience.

I and some other members of staff here found the programme to be a little confusing and not particularly easy to follow. Separating the events taking place on the Family Day into those in the centre and those elsewhere in the City meant that some of the events taking place on that day were not obvious.

I personally didn't love the brochure or the branding on the poster and a couple of colleagues agreed with me that it was quite academic and maybe a bit dry.

Programme Design: The design, size and quality really gave out a strong message that this was a serious festival (but fun too – no sombre colours). But I found the daily listings on the website easier to use.

Events for kids where they have to bring a responsible adult are great because often it is the parents first experience of anything like this.

There should be more events aimed at 14 – 16 years olds, possibly hands on workshops

The First Aid Room should be more accessible, not tucked out of the way

I think it's really important for the University to make connections with the communities which encircle it, and I would like to see more Colleges involved next year.

It was nice for me whose work is exclusively academic these days to do something practical. I was pleased that two of my masters students joined in and helped. I think it's a great idea for those of us working in the University to do something for the town and I would be happy to take part again.

Steering Group's comments

You mention some figures for total participants, and I wonder if you might have any info that helps you to understand how much overlap there was between audiences for different events - ie is it the same people going round all the events? This is always a difficulty when estimating visitor figs as we can't easily estimate how many people are visiting more than one museum.

Have you thought about coding your comments in terms of Generic Learning Outcomes? I find GLOs provide a really useful way to understand what sort of experience people have had - for example, have they learnt new skills, have their perceptions about the university changed, will they do something different as a result of attending a FoI event?

I'm also interested in funding . What additional funds did you attract, and will you have to again? Events in the museums, including the Whipple Artsbus project, were supported by funding from Renaissance in the regions and, as I understand it, some museums provided match funding from their own little purses. How do we do this in future.

I notice there were a few comments about schools not knowing about the Festival. I also know that you publicised the Festival to all schools in a variety of ways. It is notoriously difficult to capture the attention of teachers even if the publicity is sent to the school. I would suggest more targeted mailing and publicity. For example with the 800 Festival 'Letters to the Future' project we just targeted Heads of English and as you know the response has been overwhelming. This could be tried with English Coordinators in Primary Schools, Heads of Year and perhaps even inviting teachers to a pre-festival event to encourage involvement and support.

My experience from contacting primary schools as part of my city council role is that it works best from personal contact and from having something to offer (workshops on litter and recycling) that fits into the curriculum easily under a range of topics. The only way to talk to a teacher is to find a time when they are free, rather than at your convenience.

Leaflets sent to schools only get picked up if you have a very motivated teacher or if it is specific to course work.

The teenage age group is very difficult to engage. We find with cambridgewordfest that even if we programme events for 13-18 yr olds, they often don't come. The government and all local authorities have this age group as a priority. Have you thought about having a Myspace/facebook profile or putting anything on Youtube? My teenage daughters mainly communicate with their friends through these sites and find out about music/events they want to go to.

From your evaluation it seems that 85% of the Festival audience were white. Again - targeting all the ethnic groups we have in Cambridge might address this more effectively. We have a very strong Chinese community in Cambridgeshire and they have become regular library users - but only because of the work that the libraries have put in to forge stronger links.

Conclusion

From the visitor, event organiser and Steering Group comments, and from the Festival of Ideas team's experience a number of areas that need addressing and improving for next year have become apparent.

The programming of the Festival needs a more structured approach, with specific themes and ideas running through all events. Many visitors felt overwhelmed by the number of activities on offer and found that the timetabling of many of their favoured events overlapped. Events and activities could be spread across the Festival period more evenly allowing for higher attendance by visitors.

A more cross departmental approach to ideas and topics would be popular with members of the public, and the Festival team could assist in partnering departments, institutions and museums to create joint events and activities.

There should be more on offer for children aged 1 – 6, and equally for 14 – 18, who are not being catered for by either the hands on family activities or the evening talks.

Publicity for the Festival needs to start earlier in the year, and the programme needs to be distributed with a longer lead in time to the Festival, allowing members of the public to associate themselves with all of the events on offer. The Festival team need to make a more concerted effort to connect with local schools to ensure that they are aware of all of the events and activities on offer to their students.

The Festival website needs to be more interactive, with a day by day calendar of events and a searchable events database, allowing easier access to event information for members of the public.

There were numerous problems with the programme this year, it was felt that the structure and layout was both unclear and unhelpful for visitors looking for specific events, and that the branding was perhaps slightly too academic, and therefore unappealing to Cambridge residents. There is also need for a more comprehensive map of Cambridge, and of the individual sites on which events take place. It was also felt that more information about specific speakers or workshop leaders would have been beneficial for members of the public.

The Festival team must confirm with event organisers the number of spaces available for each activity, and whether these are for children or their accompanying parent. There is a need to gauge which events are going to be the most popular and the busiest, and introduce pre-booking for these to avoid overcrowding in the venue and visitor disappointment.

More comprehensive information on venue location how to get there is necessary, in both the form of maps and better signage. Further information could also be given about transport and parking for events.

The Festival of Ideas team has enjoyed working with outstanding communicators and event organisers in arts, humanities and social sciences departments, museums, student societies, Colleges and external partners to deliver a wide-ranging Festival. We are pleased that visitor feedback indicates the Festival is delivering engaging events, and we look forward to addressing issues for improvement for subsequent Festivals.

THANK YOUS

We would like to thank the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alison Richard, for enthusiastically supporting this new initiative and hosting its opening reception at the Fitzwilliam Museum. We also give great thanks to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Professor Ian Leslie, for his support in attracting the core funding for the Festival through HEFCE's Higher Education Innovation Fund. Thank you also to the Chairs of the Schools of Arts and Humanities, and Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Richard Hunter and Professor John Bell, who shared the Festival's vision of engaging the public with arts, humanities and social sciences.

The Festival team would like to thank all of the speakers who took part in the Festival, including academics and external speakers. These included Professor James Montgomery, Baroness Onora O'Neill, Professor John Naughton, Dr Agnes Callimard, Gerry Gable, Professor James Curran, Rhidian Wynn-Davies, Professor David McMullen, Dr Edward Kessler, Shaykh Michael Mumisa, Professor Janet Todd, Peter Curran, Professor John Carey, Claire Fox, Julian Baggini, Professor Adrian Monck, Professor Alan Macfarlane, Doug Richard, Nigel Brown OBE, Tim Jones, Dr Jennifer Barnes, Professor Evelyn Welch, Meg Pickard, Dr David Good, Dr Kathleen Richardson, Professor David Trotter, Professor Martin Millett, Evan Davis, Professor Willy Brown, Mike Kitson, Dr Julie Smith, Rt Hon Michael Howard MP, Vince Cable MP, Dr Barak Kushner, Professor Charles Tripp, Professor David Reynolds, Adrian Barlow, Dr Spike Bucklow, Professor Richard Moran, Professor Stephen Senn, Professor Richard Evans, Professor Robert Foley, Dr Martin Ruehl, Dr James Clackson, Dr Bert Vaux, Professor Alison Sinclair, Dr Mark Berry, Dr Leigh Shaw-Taylor, Dr Simon Szreter, Dr Christopher de Hamel, Caroline Lawrence, Dr Andy Martin, Professor David Crystal, Professor David Trotter, Louise Rennison, Professor Philip Ford, Dr David Runciman, Michael Wood, Hilary Larkin, Jenny Rampling

Further speakers took part in events co-ordinated by individual departments and external partner organisations, and we extend grateful thanks for the time they put into the Festival of Ideas.

Staff

The Festival team comprised:

Nicola Buckley, Festivals and Outreach Co-ordinator
Joanna McPhee, Festivals and Outreach Officer
Mandy Garner, Communications Officer
Selina Hawkins, Festival Assistant

With the outstanding assistance of their Community Affairs colleagues:

Penny Wilson, Head of Community Affairs
Shelley Bolderson, Festivals and Outreach Officer (Science)
Emma Wenborn, Community Affairs Officer
Sue Long, Festivals and Outreach Officer (800th)

And very many members of the External Affairs and Communications office, many of whom appear in the 'Volunteers' list below. Particular thanks to Barney Brown for his work on the Festival website and to Tom Kirk for additional work on Festival PR. Thanks to Arthur Leone for their help with PR.

Steering Group

Ant Bagshaw, Cambridge University Students' Union
Emma Borley, BBC Cambridgeshire
Allan Brigham, Tour Guide / Cambridge Folk Museum
Mary Chalk, School of Arts and Humanities
Nigel Cutting, Cambridge City Council
Margaret Greeves, Fitzwilliam Museum

Liz Hide, University Museums
Graham Hughes, BBC Cambridgeshire
Isobel Humphrey, School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Tom Kirk, Communications Office
Tamsin Mann, Research Services Division
Abigail Rokison, Faculty of Education
Helen Taylor, Cambridgeshire County Council
George Unsworth, West Road Concert Hall

Cambridge Festival of Ideas Event co-ordinators

Thanks go to the many lecturers and contributors who took part in the Festival of Ideas, and to the event co-ordinators across the University and partner organisations whose hard work was much appreciated by thousands of visitors.

Ruth Abbott	Faculty of English
Vicky Aldred	Faculty of English
Caroline Amory	White House Arts
Sarah Allan	Escape Artists
Aidan Baker	Haddon Library, Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology
Sam Bennet	Faculty of Engineering
Allan Brigham	Tour Guide
Lizzie Burns	Artist
Sarah Campbell	Kettles Yard
Ravit Capauner	Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages
Martin Clark	Citylife
Julie Coimbra	Centre of Latin American Studies
Joan Dearman	Faculty of Education
Sophie Dunn	Britten Sinfonia
Naomi Faulkner	Britten Sinfonia
Miranda Gomperts	Darwin Celebrations
Sarah Greaves	Murray Edwards College
Elizabeth Haresnape	Faculty of History
Sarah-Jane Harknett	Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology
Sara Harrop	Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology
Gill Hart	Fitzwilliam Museum
Damian Hebron	Addenbrooke's Arts
Naomi Herbert	St John's College Library
Christian Heycock	Great St Mary's Church
Matthew Hiscock	Faculty of Classics
Beverly Hoff	Cambridge and County Folk Museum
Deborah Howard	Department of History of Art
Gillian Hunter	Arts Development Manager, South Cambridgeshire District Council
Catherine Hurley	CRASSH
Tamsin James	Faculty of English
Peter Jones	King's College Library
Qian Kan	Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Chris Kaplonski	Mongolia and Inner Asia Studies Unit
Holly Kinnear	Faculty of Classics
Sally Lamb	Faculty of History
Saira Law	Heretic Club
Victoria Lever	Department of Anglo Saxon, Norse and Celtic
Rod Mengham	Jesus College
Ben Morris	Cultures of Climate Change, CRASSH
Cecily Morrison	Computer Laboratory
Julie McArthur	Museum of Zoology
Heidi Mulvey	Cambridge University Press
Josh Nall	Whipple Museum

Karen van Oostrum	Botanic Garden
Allen Packwood	Churchill Archives Centre
Adrian Poole	Faculty of English
Nebojsa Radic	Language Centre
Sophie Read	Faculty of English
Kathleen Richardson	Department of Social Anthropology
Amanda Rigler	Murray Edwards College
Helen Robinson	Wysing Arts Centre
Susan Rolfe	Research Centre for English and Applied Linguistics
Anne Ryan	Moving Tone
Heather Sanderson	Faculty of Philosophy
Annette Shelford	Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences
Trish Sheil	Cambridge Film Consortium
Bradon Smith	Cultures of Climate Change, CRASSH
Julie Smith	Centre of International Studies
Pamela Smith	McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research
Jay Stock	Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies
Miranda Stock	Faculty of Social Anthropology
Helen Stratford	Artist
Jacqui Strawbridge	Museum of Classical Archaeology
Helen Taylor	Cambridgeshire County Council
Matthew Taylor	Escape Artists
Richard Taylor	Arts and Minds
Ben Durston Thorndyke	Institute of Continuing Education
George Unsworth	Faculty of Music
Sarah Villis	Fitzwilliam Museum
Ros Wade	Scott Polar Research Institute Museum
Cazzy Walshe	Cambridge Arts Theatre
Alan Warburton	Artist
John Wells	University Library
Tara White	Anglia Ruskin University

Penny Wilson of Community Affairs kindly co-ordinated the volunteer stewards for the Festival, and we thank the many staff, students, friends and family who acted as stewards and who helped in the office prior to the Festival.

Volunteer stewards for the Cambridge Festival of Ideas

Claire Adams	Greg Hayman
Sundas Ali	Sarah Holt
Ant Bagshaw	Qin Hu
Emma Beddoe	Marium Jamali
Lucy Berry	Emily Jarvis
Shelley Bolderson	Anna Kirk
Elisabeth Burmeister	Tom Kirk
Jude Carlton	Barbara Lambert
Philippa Coe	Fred Lewsey
Leila Coupe	Sue Long
Susan Dalzell	Tamsin Mann
Elizabeth Duignan	Genevieve Maul
Claire Edwards	Martin McGloin
Jolanta Fular	Kyna Milnes
Chris Geissler	Amelia Miron
Faye Goldman	Helen Morgan
Aline Guillermet	Susannah Morgan
Catherine Hall	Geoff Morris
Sarah Hannaford	Elliot Murphy

Suzanne Parker
Cassie E. Lloyd Perrin
Ellen Roberts
Leena Roberts
Stuart Roberts
Irene Gallego Romero
Cecilia Sandrini
Simon Shears
Sophie Melton-Bradley
Nik Sultana
Lynette Talbot
Natasha Tanna
Joanna Taylor
Suvi Tenkanen

Peter Timms
David Tomlinson
Djuka Veldhuis
Jennifer Wagstaff
Claire Warburton
Elizabeth Ward
Emma Wenborn
Deborah Whiteland
Penny Wilson
Han Min Wong
Valerie Yip
Faye Yung
Sophia Zang

We thank these volunteers and the many hundreds more who helped to demonstrate and deliver events across the University, recruited and co-ordinated by their own institutions.

CONTACT DETAILS

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