

# HOW DID RUNNING BEGIN?

## New discoveries for runners and others

*An illustrated talk by Roger Robinson*

**Saturday 11th May, 3.30-4.30pm at St John's College, Cambridge**

World-renowned running author and literary scholar Roger Robinson is the final speaker in a series about the major nineteenth-century writer Samuel Butler. Roger has discovered that before writing *The Way of All Flesh* and *Erewhon* Butler was a talented runner, who more than 150 years ago took part in some of the earliest recorded runs and races since ancient Greece.

Sam Butler was the captain of the world's first harrier club.

He was race director of the world's first organised cross-country race.

He was meeting manager of the world's first modern track and field meeting.

He drew the modern world's earliest picture of competitive runners.

*(Wikipedia and all the history books are wrong!)*

*Professor Roger Robinson ran for Cambridge University and Cambridge and Coleridge A.C., and for England and New Zealand. He set masters records in the Boston and New York Marathons. He is an award-winning running journalist, senior writer for Running Times and is covering this year's Boston and London Marathons. He is author of Running in Literature and 26.2 Marathon Stories, and editor of The Way of All Flesh and The Oxford Companion to New Zealand Literature.*

The formal title of Roger's entertaining and running-focused talk is:

**Young Sam Butler and the Origins of Modern Running: His Athletic and Illicit Exploits as a Fox and a Hound**

**\* ALL WELCOME \***

To reserve a seat and book free afternoon tea at 3pm before the talk, email [rew35@cam.ac.uk](mailto:rew35@cam.ac.uk).

For full details of the Samuel Butler event and exhibition, visit:

[www.joh.cam.ac.uk/celebration-samuel-butler-project](http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/celebration-samuel-butler-project)



St John's College  
University of Cambridge

