



The London Library still has more than 70 of the books borrowed by Darwin and recorded in its ledger, top left

one of the best book returners," Nathalie Belkin, the library's archivist, said. "He was a voracious reader and one of the early members who borrowed the most at one time.

But his books were always returned."

Darwin, whose wife, Emma, gave birth to six children in the 1840s, began showing friends his "species theory" in the middle of the

decade, with *On the Origin of Species* published in 1859.

Of the 119 titles recorded against Darwin's name, more than 70 survive. Belkin said the ledgers showed

the "rich reading history" of Darwin. He was introduced by his brother Erasmus, a founding member. Darwin's reading tastes are reassuringly eclectic, leading article, page 25

invasive prostate home-testing kit

medical school at UEA, cancer is the most common in men in the UK. Usually develops slowly of cancers will not re- in a man's lifetime. It is matter to predict which become aggressive, mak- decide on treatment for

Common tests for prostate blood tests, a physical known as a digital rectal MRI scan or a biopsy. could make monitoring "so much less stressful reduce the number of to the hospital", Clark

picking up secretions ate, just below the blad- ily flow into the urethra urine. These carry cells from all over the pros-

tate. The first of two urine samples is taken first thing in the morning, to include overnight secretions, and the second sample an hour later.

Clark said: "Feedback from early participants showed that the at-home collection was much preferred over sample collection in a hospital. We hope that using our Prostate Screening Box could in future revolutionise how those on 'active surveillance' are monitored for disease progression, with men only having to visit the clinic after a positive urine result."

At present men with low-risk cancer and those on active surveillance are recalled to the clinic every six to twelve months for a range of tests including a digital rectal examination, biopsies and MRI.

Clark hopes that the urine tests could enable men with a negative test to be retested less frequently, every two to three years, "relieving stress to the

patient and reducing hospital workload".

Robert Mills, consultant clinical director in urology at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, said: "This simple, non-invasive urine test has the potential to significantly change how we diagnose and manage early prostate cancer for the benefit of patients and healthcare systems. It may enable us to avoid unnecessary diagnosis of low-risk disease as well as manage patients more appropriately with surveillance for those with low risk of progression, and early curative treatment for those at high risk of progression."

The research has been funded by a November and Prostate Cancer UK innovation award, the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Bob Champion Cancer Trust, the King family, the Andy Ripley Memorial Fund, the Hargrave Foundation, Norfolk Freemasons and the Tesco Centenary Grant.

s tumours were medieval killer

cord was limited to exterior of bones. It sug- was rare, affecting less of the population.

the University of Cam- visual inspection with aging for the first time to ons dating from the 6th century. The remains had femurs and pelvises in- n imaged, with the team of malignancy in the dividuals — a minimum

prevalence of 3.5 per cent. These were mostly in the pelvis, although one middle-aged man had small lesions throughout his skeleton suggesting a form of blood cancer. CT scans detect bone metastases roughly 75 per cent of the time, and only a third to half of cancer deaths involve it spreading to the bones. This led to the team projecting the 9-14 per cent figure.

Dr Piers Mitchell, of Cambridge's Department of Archaeology and lead author of the study, in the journal

Cancer, said: "The majority of cancers form in soft tissue organs long since degraded in medieval remains. Only some cancer spreads to bone, and of these only a few are visible on its surface, so we searched within the bone for signs of malignancy."

He said the finding could prompt the deaths of prominent medieval figures to be re-evaluated.

The researchers noted that 40-50 per cent of people in modern Britain have cancer by the time they die.

Fired cancer patient wins £2.5m payout

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

A former executive at an engineering company has been awarded £2.5 million after he was unfairly sacked while receiving treatment for cancer.

In what is thought to be one of the biggest disability discrimination awards in UK history, a judge said that David Barrow, 64, had suffered "an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating" environment while working at the Surrey office of KBR Inc, a company based in Houston, Texas.

Barrow, who had been with KBR for 36 years at the time of his sacking, was the head of programme management at the Leatherhead office when he complained about changes in the business and claimed he was not given an appropriate pay rise. An employment tribunal in London heard that he was taking steroids for a skin condition when he first registered his complaints, and that the medication affected his behaviour.

According to a report by Bloomberg news agency, Barrow, 64, told the tribunal that the steroids made him feel that his "head was like a pressure cooker".

Barrow was diagnosed with cancer in 2018 but was sacked later that year.

The tribunal found that Barrow's bosses were looking for an excuse to dismiss him "and the only way this could be done quickly was to dress it up as a breakdown in trust and confidence". He won claims for unfair dismissal, harassment and unfavourable treatment as a result of disability.

KBR said it respected the ruling and "is committed to conducting its business honestly and with integrity" and "creating a workplace where our employees feel valued and respected".