

DNA¹

The famous three of lasting fame
Changed the world and all its ways
When they recast the research game
And found an exit from the maze.

Based on an X-ray photograph
They posited a helix double,
An idea that made some laugh
But helped all science out of trouble.

Franklin, Watson and Dr Crick
Pooled resources that did the trick.
It was an extra special day
On which they discovered DNA.

Two at Cambridge, one at Kings
Involved in the most arcane of things,
Concerning the genetic code
And chromosomes both Y and X,

A new direction on life's road
A signpost, too, for science and sex.

By Ken Franklin - 25th March 2003

¹ The discovery was made on 28 February 1953 and announced by Sir [Lawrence Bragg](#), the director of the [Cavendish Laboratory](#) where Watson and Crick worked, at the [Solvay conference](#) on [proteins](#) in [Belgium](#) on 8 April 1953. The 67th anniversary of this announcement is just a fortnight away.