

BIN BROOK

The Magazine of Robinson College, Cambridge



L E N T 2 0 1 6

Contents

My Robinson, by Michael Panayi (2012)	2
From the Fellowship: Baroness Julie Smith	3
The Bruntwood Prize	5
Music at Robinson	6
4000 miles to the sea, Andrew Ware (1990)	7
Access at Robinson	9
Lewis Research Studentships in Chemistry Update	10
Announcements	11

Forthcoming Events for Members and Friends

19/3/16 - Pegasus Society Seminar, AGM and Dinner

14/4/16 - Robinson in Asia Dinner

18/6/16 - Deborah Thom Retirement Lunch

6/7/16 - Annual Reception, at the House of Lords

24/9/16 - Reunion Dinner for 1981, 1986,
1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006.

6/11/16 - Crausaz Wordsworth Lunch, Come & Sing,
Commemoration of Benefactors

11/11/16 - Geography Alumni Dinner

For further information and booking, please
see: [http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/
development-news](http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/development-news)

Editor: Dr Nicola Jones
Editorial Committee: Ms Helen Cornish, Dr Rosalind Love,
Dr Steve Trudgill, Dr Judy Weiss and Mrs Helen Winter

Photos: Cover, Robinson Chapel, detail from the John Piper window, *The Beginning and the End*; Top to bottom: Memorial Stone in the Chapel; Blade in the Bar; Detail from the Piper window in the side Chapel. All photos by Layton Thompson Photography.





Michael Panayi is a finalist in Law. He came to Robinson in 2012, as an EU student, and here he tells us a little about his experience. Michael has been a caller for several years in our Annual Telephone Calling Programme, so it's quite likely that some readers will have spoken to him.

What was your experience of applying to Robinson from Cyprus?

Since I had never visited Cambridge, finding the right college was a rather daunting (albeit exciting) experience. Choosing Robinson was based partly on intuition that it would be the friendliest place to live in and partly on its reputation for being one of the strongest colleges for the English Tripos.

Although I travelled alone to the UK for my interview, I found everyone to be exceptionally welcoming, and especially the Porters and student helpers (aka "sheepdogs"). The interviewers were equally enthusiastic, and gave me plenty of opportunities to demonstrate how coming from Cyprus could be an advantage in studying English, which I thoroughly appreciated.

Is it an unusual choice to switch subjects? How has it worked out?

After two very happy years of reading English, I discovered that I was allowed to switch Tripos. I knew I wanted to be a lawyer, and I also knew that doing a one-year conversion in London wouldn't satisfy my intellectual curiosity. So I decided to switch to the Law Tripos, which extended my BA to four years.

Switching degrees at Cambridge is fairly common, which I think reflects the fact that people who attend the University often have diverse but equally strong academic interests.

Because it's fairly common practice, College has a standard procedure, which allows you to be re-interviewed to assess your suitability for the new subject (without losing your place on the old course in case you aren't). The University too arranges centralised transitional lectures to cover the basic skills needed for those switching.

I've really enjoyed reading Law. From an academic point of view, the College Fellows are world-leading experts in their respective fields, which makes studying here quite inspirational.

We also have a very active Law Society. In my time reading Law I was elected as the Co-President of this Society and was also named Master of the Moots. In practice, this means that I got to see first-hand just how sophisticated Law is at Robinson. Not only are we taken on a Revision Week (typically held in Oxford) where College covers all our expenses, but we also have several Law dinners with Fellows and Law firms, end-of-term parties, and our very own Law Library. The Society funds itself by organising a major law fair each year, which attracts some of the biggest firms in the world, and also gives students around Cambridge the opportunity to network for internship places and training contracts. What is more, we host an annual inter-collegiate Mooting (mock-court) contest, which is presided over by very distinguished members of the judiciary, most recently Lord Clarke of the Supreme Court.

How have recent political events affected your time in the UK?

Austerity measures have had an obvious impact on salaries in Cyprus, with the average salary in 2015 being around one third less than the average salary in the UK. This creates problems for many students in relation to paying tuition fees.

An additional problem that's recently become more prevalent is the potential for Brexit. Brexit would have obvious ramifications for EU students, especially those with EU loans, and it could jeopardise our employment opportunities by requiring new visa arrangements.

What do you plan to do after your degree?

I've been fortunate enough to secure a Training Contract with Clifford Chance LLP, London, which will begin in February 2018, after I complete the Legal Practice Course in London. In the year between graduation and the LPC, I'd like to stay at Robinson and complete an LLM in EU and international law if I receive a grant.

In the long-term, I'd very much like to specialise in EU law, and hopefully return to Cyprus to help with reconciliation efforts. I'd also like to see the novels I wrote (rather miraculously while at Cambridge) published.

My Robinson

From the Fellowship: Baroness Julie Smith of Newnham

Julie joined Robinson in 1997, and is a Graduate Tutor and Director of Studies for Human, Social and Political Sciences. An expert in European politics, Julie was Head of the European Programme at Chatham House (the Royal Institute of International Affairs) from 1999 until 2003. In August 2014, Julie was made a Life Peer of the House of Lords, on the nomination of the Liberal Democrats.

I am currently on a year's sabbatical leave – a time when academics are expected to focus on research and scholarly writing that win favour from the eminent people evaluating the Research Excellence Framework. For many academics this would mean time spent abroad, benefiting from discussions with academic colleagues overseas, using their labs or libraries. In my case, however, the subject of my research - the UK's relations with the European Union - requires me to remain rather closer to home and is directly linked with my parallel life as a member of the House of Lords. Thus, I am firmly based in the UK as the country prepares for a referendum on whether or not we should stay in the EU.

During Michaelmas 2015 I engaged in the ultimate 'participant observation'. At the last minute, I was asked to lead for the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords' debates on the EU Referendum Act 2015. It was a fascinating and daunting experience – I found myself up against people like Nigel Lawson and Norman Tebbit who were cabinet ministers when I was still at school. After two months of increasingly repetitive debates, I was incredibly relieved when the bill was finally passed – legislating turns out to be an exhausting process, especially when the subject matter is so controversial – it's not all theatre like Prime Minister's Questions but it does mean a lot of concentration. The good news for me as academic is that having sat through all the Lords debates I have a much better sense of the issues than I'd have had from reading Hansard, as researchers normally have to do. Of course, there are risks from being too closely involved in the subject one is studying. Some colleagues in Political Science are keen to stress the virtues of 'pure research', unsullied by hands-on experience. The issue of Britain and Europe is now so sensitive that a blog I was commissioned to write last summer was blocked on the grounds that I was politically engaged, which was more than a little frustrating. And the media sometimes find practitioners tricky too – while the BBC used to be happy to invite me to contribute as an academic expert they now have to consider the need for 'balance' – if they can find someone who wants to leave they can have me on, otherwise they need to find a more neutral voice.

I never intended to devote my life to the EU, although it is true to say that my first political memory is of coming home from school one day to hear on the news that we (well the adults at least) were being asked if we wanted to stay in the Common Market, as the EU was then known. Perhaps this subconsciously affected my subsequent career choices. Certainly, it affected my political choices: I got involved in an historic by-election campaigning for Shirley Williams and the Social Democrat Party in my home town of Crosby in part because the SDP was strongly in favour of Europe. However, I did not plan to study politics - it was rejection for Modern Languages at Newnham that caused me to rethink my future aged 18. The 'Other Place' accepted me to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics instead and for seven years I studied Politics in Oxford, including writing my doctorate on elections to the European Parliament.

For many years, my research seemed of little interest to most people – the mention of the EU was enough to end most conversations. Nor were Cambridge undergraduates passionate about the EU – most were keener on conflict zones and the US than peaceful, uneventful Europe - though many of my graduate students were rather more engaged, coming as they did from other, rather more europhile EU member states. Internal party divisions meant that 'Europe' was seen as important by politicians, but not by ordinary voters, who consistently ranked the EU rather low in their lists of concerns, far below the economy and the NHS. But now the tide has turned: it has become a risky business telling people what I do as I can be detained for hours as people ask my opinions on Britain and Europe – or, more likely in the UK, offer me the benefit of their opinions. And there's a rub – colleagues from across the EU have been assiduous in inviting me to give guest lectures on Britain and Europe – and my instinct is always to accept. Yes, the issue shifts on a daily basis, each invitation requires a new approach, an update on the negotiations or a revision of my thinking. They all take time and while giving lectures does provide a useful way of clarifying my thoughts and getting feedback from fellow academics, this has to be counter-balanced by the time it takes to travel to whichever country it might be. Being in demand has a certain allure, which I suspect everyone will understand, whether current students or alumni. But there is a danger that giving lectures becomes a distraction – displacement activity in lieu of writing those serious tracts that my department expects. However, good the intentions to write up the guest lectures, the reality is not a set of prototype chapters all ready to slot straight into a scholarly book. Research necessitates staying in the UK to follow my object of study; the demands of serious writing also necessitate staying put for a while, re-learning the lonely discipline I exercised as a graduate student, hiding in a room with just a computer and Tchaikovsky or Rachmaninov for company. But then there's a referendum to be fought – further material for the research,

undoubtedly, but with the associated risk of further distraction from the discipline of writing. Politics is often about compromise, not just passion and idealism; academic life may demand a more blinkered approach; the combination of the two, when the object of study is ever changing means life is never dull; getting the balance right is the ultimate challenge for this academic.

The forthcoming referendum adds a whole new dimension to political and academic life. Having spent so long on European matters I've inevitably got a lot of pro-European friends and colleagues – and as Director of the European Centre at POLIS and Senior Treasurer of the University's European Union Society I found I'd been discussing the best way of campaigning to remain in the EU with a wide range of people. This led rather unexpectedly to my bringing together a group of students, academics, politicians and others with an interest in the EU: the start of Cambridge for Europe, which was officially launched at Pembroke College on 29th January. While I'm acutely aware that views differ on this issue, and fellow academics are supporting the leave campaign, for most of us the benefits of EU membership to Cambridge as a City and as a University are immense. The University and its researchers, especially in science and engineering go far beyond the money involved in EU grant funding, important though that undoubtedly is – they include fostering international collaborations that lead to ground-breaking research. So some campaigning will be inevitable alongside the academic writing. It's clear that European partners, whether politicians or academics, particularly in Germany, are keen to keep us in the EU; the least pro-European British academics and politicians can do is to persuade our fellow voters of the importance of this decision - a vote to leave the EU would send me back to teaching History papers on Britain and Europe as I did when I arrived in Cambridge; I'd far rather look to a European future than a European past.



Above: Julie delivering a lecture about Britain and Europe at the Humboldt University;

Below: Julie in Cyprus on the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme in July 2015.



The Bruntwood Prize

In November, Robinson alumna, Katherine Soper (2010) was awarded the prestigious Bruntwood Prize for her play, *Wish List*. The Bruntwood Prize is the UK's biggest national competition for playwriting. Here, Lotte Reinbold, Judy and Nigel Weiss Scholar, (2010) catches up with Katherine to discuss her success.



Top: Katherine at the presentation of the prize, taken by Joel C Fildes;
Bottom: Lotte and Katherine during their time at Robinson



Congratulations on being awarded the Bruntwood Prize! Can you tell us a little more about what it means and what it will involve?

Thank you! Basically it means that I'm developing my play with the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester, with a view to staging it there this autumn, and possibly in London after that. I've also been given enough money to commit to writing full-time for a while, which is an absolute dream! So I've been doing a lot of redrafting, and we're workshopping it with actors in February.

You won the prize for your play *Wish List*. Can you talk a little about the play, and the ideas behind it?

Very generally it's about work and our attitudes to work and to the unemployed. It's about a pair of siblings, Tamsin and Dean – Tamsin is Dean's carer and when his ESA (Employment and Support Allowance) is cut off because he has been found fit to work, she takes a job in a warehouse to tide them over. This came from the fact that I worked in a warehouse as my summer job for a few years, found it really fascinating as an environment and yet couldn't think of any plays that used a warehouse setting. It explores lots of ideas about bureaucracy, and large systems, and their interaction with an individual's life.

How did your time at Cambridge shape your playwriting (my irrefutable influence excluded)?

Before Cambridge, I didn't know I wanted to be a playwright – I don't think I quite realised that people still wrote plays, and my time at Cambridge introduced me to a lot of modern drama I hadn't known. I also still find myself thinking about the Tragedy paper – the opening quotation for *Wish List* is from Agamemnon. But in my time – it may well be different now – there wasn't a particularly good or respectful attitude towards student playwriting. I saw a lot of rather malicious reviews of new writing in my first year, which was a big turn-off, and because I didn't find my niche in the student drama world, I struggled a lot with my confidence as a playwright. Luckily I now know how normal that is, and it's often a sign that you have high standards for your own work!

Is now a good time to be a female playwright?

There's always a lot of talk about this in the media. The Bruntwood winners, who are selected from anonymous submissions, have been split 50/50 over the last ten years, so it's worth asking why that percentage isn't being borne out in theatres' programming choices. But ultimately, the far greater barriers for playwrights are race and socioeconomic background. I find it frustrating that the 'new wave of female playwrights!' angle is so prevalent in journalism, when the female playwrights they cover so often tend to be white, and have been educated at private school and/or Russell Group universities. True diversity in playwriting has a really long way to go, both in who is given the resources to train and hone their craft, and whose work is eventually programmed.

What's your favourite memory of Robinson?

Possibly the May Ball of 2012, which was given a very appropriate Red Planet theme after the idea came to a Robinson student in a dream. I also have really good memories of the gardens in winter, because we had snow every single year while I was there. Cambridge at Christmas is really special and I miss it a lot!

Music at Robinson

Zoë Silkstone, an English Finalist and member of the choir offer an update on the music scene at Robinson:

As the long Christmas festive period draws to a close, marked by Candlemas on 2nd February, Robinson's Chapel Choir looks forward to a musically luscious Lenten season. Our main events this term included the Ash Wednesday Meditation on Wednesday 10th February and a performance of Brahms' Requiem on Thursday 25th February. In addition, the choir sings regular evensong and worship services on Tuesdays and Sundays in the College Chapel. The Tuesday services are sung choral evensong and the Sundays are evening worship services including a sermon - the theme this term is God and Cinema and films have ranged from *Scar Face* to *Toy Story!* On Friday 12th February, Robinson's Music Society hosted the annual choral and organ scholars' concert in the Chapel. At the end of the term we have a concert for the College staff and then start preparing for our tour to Paris in April. During our four-day trip we will be singing in many beautiful venues, namely La Madeleine and the Cathedral of St Louis des Invalides, where we will be joining the choir of Paris Sciences et Lettres who came to visit Robinson last spring.

The choir comprises both choral scholars and volunteers, including two MMus students this year. The choir's director is Mr Simon Brown, newly appointed in October 2015, aided by the two organ scholars, Tom James and David Warren. I first met Simon on a King's Voices tour (the mixed choir of King's College) to Austria in April 2015. He used to direct the choir before Ben Parry and it is a great pleasure to have him conducting Robinson! He has taken the choir from strength to strength since his first day and we look forward to a fabulous few days in Paris this Easter.

Once a month we sing a Compline service at 10pm in Chapel, consisting primarily of plainchant and an anthem or two. This term will also feature a women's evensong, which will include a performance of a Magnificat by our Director of Music, Jeremy Thurlow, and will take place on Tuesday 9th March.

Robinson is a very social choir, not only within College but in regards to other college events. We frequently sing combined

choral evensong with other college choirs; in the past this has included Churchill and Homerton. On Tuesday 8th March, our last evensong for Lent Term we will be singing with the choir of Pembroke College in our Chapel.

Aside from the Chapel Choir, Robinson has a thriving music scene. *Vocal chords* is the college's mixed choir, balanced with *Binson Belles*, an all female group. In addition there are numerous College bands ranging from brass bands to acoustic and jazz genres.

The Music Society is a central part of the Music at College and a place where various different musical groups can perform. Every Friday they put on a half hour concert in Chapel at 6.30pm, free for all, students and the public. Ranging from Italian pianists to Canadian piano and violin duos, the College attracts interest internationally for its music opportunities and brilliant performance space, the Chapel.

The music scene at Robinson is too frequently underestimated but it is clear that, although we may not have the prestige or reputation of Clare or King's, undeservedly it should be said, our music life is thriving and growing day to day. It would be lovely to see some of you at the concerts in term-time or weekly evensong, all of which take place in the College Chapel.

This year the college choir is going on tour to Paris, to sing three concerts in three of the city's most magnificent churches.

It would be brilliant to see any friends of the College in the region at the concerts:

- Thursday 7th April 7.30pm St Louis des Invalides Joint concert with the Choeur et Orchestre de PSL - Haydn, Beethoven.
- Friday 8th April 8.30pm St Louis en l'Île Treasures of English Choral Music: Robinson choir sings music by Tallis, Byrd, Gibbons, Stanford
- Saturday 9th April 4.00pm La Madeleine Treasures of English Choral Music.

Further details and webpages for these concerts, and how to book tickets, are posted on our brand new website: <http://robinsonchoir.co.uk/>





4000 miles to the sea...

Andrew Ware (1990) studied Music at Robinson, where he met Jane, who was a student at APU...

One of the first things I did when I arrived in Cambridge in 1990 was to get on my bike and see the countryside outside the city. I think in three years I probably used every road within 20 miles. I met my future wife, Jane, and ended up staying permanently. I now live about 15 miles away, and I teach violin and viola at St John's College School on Grange Road.

Everything changed in October 2013. Jane spent a few days feeling sick at home, and woke up at the weekend with a rash which turned out to be meningitis. We rushed to A&E, but she died of Sepsis after 48 hours in Intensive Care. Our children, Katie and Thomas, were 10 and 7 at the time. Over the course of a weekend, we went from our cosy family to complete devastation. Over two years on, sometimes it still feels unreal.

Having cycled twice from Lands End to John O'Groats, Jane and I had been planning our next big adventure: coast to coast across the USA. She wasn't a cyclist - she'd have followed me in the car with the children. But we were looking forward to the adventure of a lifetime.

In the first few weeks after Jane died, I didn't know how I could live the rest of my life, let alone get on a bike again. But as people so often do when things are blackest, I slowly found a way to cope. Friends and family rallied round. The children learnt how to be strong. It's been like learning to live again.

Even after this long, I still struggle for words to describe the effect of bereavement at a young age. We live in a world where we expect doctors to cure us, and we'll die as grandparents. I could never have known what this new life would be like. Every time I started to cope, something else would take me right back down. People don't know how to talk to you. And even though everyone means well, sentences like 'you're being so strong', 'time heals everything' or 'everything happens for a reason' sometimes make you want to scream.

Nothing prepares you for how grief is a physical as well as an emotional pain, and how you struggle with simple tasks. It took nearly two months to face shopping at the supermarket, and even then I ended up wandering up and down the aisles, in tears, not knowing what I'd come for. At four months the shock wore off, and I actually got worse rather than better. I forgot how to accomplish the most simple tasks. The children would go for a week without a bath, and I'd forget to give them a meal until they reminded me. (They didn't remind me about the baths!) Bereaved friends told me with sympathetic honesty that the second year is worse than the first. In many ways, it has been. All those texts, phone calls and visits I had at the beginning started to dwindle, and you're left as a single parent, facing reality. I joined the support group WAY (Widowed and Young). The friendship of people coping with the same thing has kept me going. WAY members ten years on could tell me that there is a happy and optimistic future. Until then, I couldn't believe it.

In 2014, the summer after Jane died, I ran the marathon I'd always promised her I would. I felt she was with me every mile. And at the same time, I decided that I would complete the project we'd started together: 4000 miles on a bicycle across the USA. The planning was a challenge, especially with children. Sometimes it seemed impossible. But knowing I was doing it for Jane meant I was never going to give up.

So, with family looking after my children, I found myself in San Francisco in early July, alone, with a half-assembled bicycle and two panniers: my only luggage for the next two months. I set off on 13th July. Three days later I was climbing from near sea level to 8000ft in the Sierra Nevada mountains. I spent what would have been our 21st wedding anniversary (13th August) in a motel room in Missouri taking my third rest day in 33 days. After a week with friends in Ohio (where I finally met up with the children again), on 8th September I came around a corner in Liberty Park, New York, to see the Statue of Liberty in front of me. I managed to put on a smile for the camera, then I leant on the railing by the ocean and wept – for what I'd achieved, and for not being able to share it with the one person I needed to.



People ask me what it was like, and, insufficient as it is, I usually have only one word: big. Physically, emotionally, and the vast scale of the country. I rode 3851 miles from the Golden Gate Bridge to Manhattan, and was on the saddle for over 324 hours. I've been in deserts in Utah at over 40°C where there's nowhere to get food, water or even shade all day. I've climbed up to 12,000 feet in Colorado. And although it's a cliché it's true: most of the challenge is in your head. Eighteen months ago I couldn't imagine doing a ride like this ever again. In some unforeseeable ways, parts of this ride were easier than they would have been. And the parts that were harder have made me stronger.

There is life after bereavement - but it's not the same as the one we shared for 23 years together. I've learnt to be glad of the time we had, even though it was far too short, and not to spend the rest of my life wishing for something I can't have back again.



Every day of your life, say 'I love you', kiss your children goodnight, and do the things your heart tells you that you need to do. One day you'll wake up and be glad you didn't forget to live.

I am still raising money for WAY and three other charities that have helped us. My Virgin Money Giving page is <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AndrewWare2>

You can read my blog at <https://4000milestothesea.wordpress.com>

Widowed and Young is a fantastic charity that helps people widowed under the age of 50, married or not, with or without children: <https://www.widowedandyoung.org.uk>



Access to Robinson



Following a great deal of interest in her article in the Michaelmas 2015 edition of *Bin Brook*, Victoria Harvey, our Schools Liaison Officer, offers an update about Robinson's latest outreach initiatives.

Visits to Schools

Visits to schools are an excellent way for College representatives to engage with larger cohorts of students and teachers. I have visited several schools since my appointment in June, as have many of Robinson's Fellows. Perhaps the visit with the most impact, however, is the visit by a current student to their former school or college. By actually seeing the success of their former colleague and hearing about the application process from someone who has successfully navigated it not so long ago, pupils are motivated to aim high. The impact of such visits turns the dream into a potential reality for many pupils. Robinson supports such student-led outreach by helping with transport costs and by providing prospectuses and information for the students to take with them.

Events in Cambridge

Engagement with current students is equally important when pupils come to Robinson for an event. Tours of College are regularly led by Robinson students and we are lucky to have so many willing volunteers who are coordinated by the JCR Access officer Emily Fishman. In return they receive a meal voucher – which is often used to sit and chat with the visiting pupils at lunchtime.

Before the academic year began, Robinson staged two important admissions events, the first of which was a prize-giving for the annual Robinson essay prize. Here, school students were given the opportunity to write an essay of about 2,500 words on a wide range of topics. 12 prizes were awarded and all the winners were invited to the College to meet the Directors of Studies in the relevant subjects and the Warden. This has been a popular event and it was encouraging to see that, in only our second year of running the essay prize, the number of people who applied had doubled. In October, we also received applications to the College from a large proportion of those who had entered the essay prize.

The second admissions event this academic year was

Robinson's first ever Festival of Women in Science. Members of Robinson have long been concerned by the low rate of female applicants in the sciences, a trend that is seen nationally at the school level. This event was a great success: over 130 students came from all over the country. Some stayed overnight in the College and all received talks from Fellows on particular subjects the next day. The school students were themselves given the opportunity to present their work to the Fellows and all involved were very impressed by the high standards seen. The school students were also able to take part in practical science experiments with Dr Rachel Oliver at the Material Sciences Department. We were delighted with the event overall and its importance was in part demonstrated by the wide range of media attention it received. We intend to continue hosting this festival in years to come, and Professor Dame Athene Donald has agreed to give the 2016 plenary lecture.

Michaelmas term saw Robinson's first new-format Masterclass. The idea was to consolidate some of our school day trips so as to be able to provide more varied academic content. In November we were able to offer sessions in Architecture; Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic; History; Human, Social, Political Sciences; Law; Modern and Medieval Languages and Physical Natural Sciences. Pupils were also given information on the admissions process and had the opportunity to chat with current students over lunch and during student-led tours of the College. 133 schools pupils attended the event and feedback was positive: over 80% of students found the sessions appropriately challenging and almost 90% agreed that they gained a good understanding of their chosen subject at University level. This is one of our primary aims – to encourage students to explore their subject independently in order properly to understand what they will be doing during those undergraduate years. Needless to say, Robinson's excellent facilities were highly rated by our visitors: hopefully they will remember the high quality of our food and rooms when it is time to nominate their College. Thanks to additional funding from the National Network for Collaborative Outreach, we are able to offer transportation to and from Robinson, to schools in our link areas. In November and February, we funded coaches from Swindon, Cirencester, Gloucester and Cheltenham. These new arrangements mean that the day is completely free of charge for schools in our link areas, removing the cost and some of the administrative burden from schools.

The second of these Masterclasses was held on the 10 February and included representation from



Victoria Harvey giving a talk to prospective applicants.

Maths; Medicine; History; Modern and Medieval Languages; Architecture; Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic; Theology/Religious Studies and Law. Over fifty students attended the Masterclass: Medics learnt about potential problems during pregnancy from Dr Andrew Sharkey; Maths students spent two hours with Dr Chris Warner, working through problems and then visiting the nearby maths department - the architectural symmetry was very much appreciated by all. The linguists experienced an *ab initio* Portuguese session, a masterclass in skills of textual analysis and an overview of the course structure from Dr Liz Guild and our Senior Member, Dr Viviane Carvalho da Anunciação. Candidates for History, Law, Theology and Religious Studies and Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic (ASNC) had the opportunity to attend a History lecture with Dr Amy Erickson, followed by either an hour of Law with Dr Brian Sloan, or a text based supervision in ASNC with Dr David Woodman followed by a discussion based supervision in Theology and Religious Studies with Dr Simon Perry, the College Chaplain. Attending multiple sessions enabled students to experience different elements of the Cambridge teaching system, as well as a selection of related subject areas that they may not have considered before. Following a brief overview of the Cambridge admissions process, the visiting pupils were treated to a Q&A session with current students. The range and number of questions asked showed how enthusiastic the visitors were and our current students fielded all the enquiries brilliantly.

Teachers' Conference

This year's Teachers' Conference will focus on Arts and Humanities subjects. Teachers arrive on 22nd March in time for a formal dinner with Fellows and a night in College. The following day, teachers will attend subject specific sessions across the range of Arts and Humanities during which they will receive advice on writing references and personal statements, as well as gaining a deeper insight into the courses themselves. The mock interview session, held before lunch, is always welcomed by visiting teachers as this is often the most anxiety-inducing part of the admissions process. Because this is a time of great change, with the loss of AS Levels and the introduction of Admissions Assessments by Cambridge University, we feel this will be a particularly useful occasion for the Fellows and teachers to share their ideas about the forthcoming changes.

Summer Residentials

There are two residential events planned for June, one for Science and Maths students and one for the Arts and Humanities cohort. We can accommodate fifty Year 12 students each night. During the two days, students will receive lectures and supervisions in their chosen subjects, as well as practical sessions in labs, or facilitated visits to some of the many exceptional museums in Cambridge. Alongside the authentic teaching environment, students have the opportunity to stay the night in student accommodation. This experience will hopefully provide potential candidates with a motivating boost just before the application deadlines.



Readers may recall that in the Lent 2015 edition of Bin Brook we announced that Robinson was fundraising for the Lewis Research Studentship in Chemistry and that a number of gifts had already been made. Discussions were underway with the Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre and the Cambridge Malaysian Education and Development Trust and these lead to generous donations from both these organisations in recognition of Lord Lewis's long association with them and his support for their work.

Recently, a further very generous donation has been received from WAMITAB (Waste Management Industry Training and Advisory Board) in recognition of Lord Lewis's work as both Chairman and President of the organisation. Lord Lewis used his chemical knowledge for the benefit of society, including as the Chair of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, a Commission whose reports still have substantial impact in the UK, and in 2002 was appointed as Chairman of WAMITAB, succeeding to the role of President in 2005. The Warden and Fellows are very grateful to WAMITAB for this significant contribution to the Lewis Research Studentship in Chemistry, which will help to fund generations of young chemists to research new approaches and increase our understanding of

An update on the Lewis Research Studentship in Chemistry

the world around us and how best to work to the benefit of human society and the environment in which we all live.

Gifts of all sizes have contributed to the funds raised to date, which now stand at over £230,000 towards the full endowment goal of £697,000 (see Bin Brook Lent 2015 and <http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/bursaries-scholarships/lord-lewis-research-studentship-chemistry> for a full break-down of the figures). Thank you to all who have contributed.

We hope to make a partial award in collaboration with other partial awards available via the University of Cambridge Chemistry Department to allow an outstanding young scholar to begin PhD research from Michaelmas 2016. Income from the Lewis Research Studentship in Chemistry fund will be used to make partial awards each year whilst fundraising continues for the remaining endowment balance needed.

If you would like to make a contribution, further information can be seen on the web link above, or you can contact the Robinson Development Office on development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk or use the gift form on the back of this magazine.

All photos are below announcement, unless otherwise stated.

Births

Dominika (2004, née **Sobolova**) and Martin **Broz** are happy to announce the arrival of their daughter, Emily Katherine, born on 11 October 2015.



Professor **Adam Harvey** (1990) and Katie French (Churchill, 1990) would like to announce the birth of 4 children: Benjamin (2006), Chloe (2007), Noah and Rowan (both 2012), all Geordies. Adam is Head of Chemical Engineering at Newcastle University)

David Gilliland (1993) and Lenette were joined by their daughter, Charlotte Neve, on 15 December 2015. She seemed to be even more excited than us by events and came a little bit early, but is taking everything in her stride.

Tom and **Caroline Stoker** (2006) were delighted to welcome Daniel Jack Stoker on 23 November.



Maiia Williams (2005, née **Guermanova**) and her husband Nick Williams (Causis, 2005) are delighted to announce the birth of their baby boy, Ilya Hugh Maksim Williams. He was born in good health on 3 December 2015. A perfect Christmas present!



Sam (1997, née **Sharpe**) and Andy **Woad** are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter Clara in April 2015, a little sister to Benjamin, born 2012.



Marriages

Tuuli Bell (2009, née **Sutinen**) is excited to have married David Bell (Downing, 2007) in Cambridge at a sunny Christmas wedding in late 2015. A beautiful ceremony in Downing was followed by a wonderful reception in Robinson. A special thanks to **Daniel Mateos Moreno** (2009) for a lovely music performance and a big thank you to **Christine James** and all Robinson staff for a memorable day.



Ed Cairns and **Louisa Sutton** (both 2005) were wed at Robinson College on 1 August 2015. The wedding featured a Binson cast of thousands, including **David Bosworth** as best man, **James Gordon** as usher, and **Sheena Regan** and **Jonny Young** as bridespeople (all 2005). Countless college friends were also in attendance, partying like it was 2007. Thanks to the wonderful staff at Robinson, especially **Christine James**, **Glenys Denton** and **Simon Perry**, who gave us the most fabulous wedding day in the place where it all began. (Picture bottom right ->)

Adam Scott (2003) married Sara Ehsani Zonoz of Sweden in Kokkedal, Denmark on 31 August 2015.

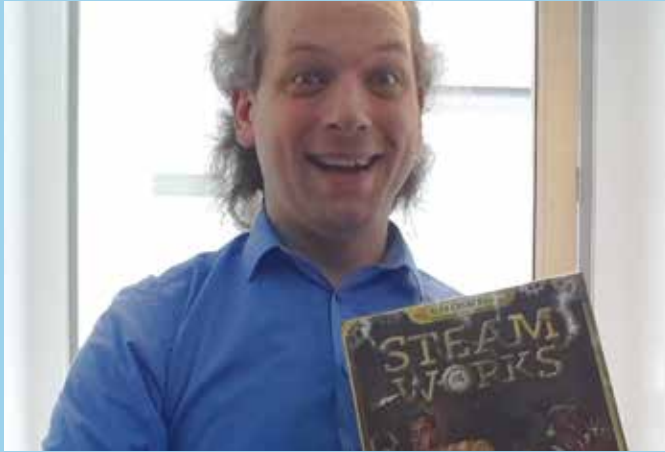
Dr **Poranee Deerajiset** (2001) was engaged to Puth Wongsuwan on 11 December 2015. Poranee and Puth married on 19 January 2016.



Gill Webb (1998) and **Barney Davies** (Jesus, 1998) were married at The Grand in Brighton on the 18 October 2014. There was a large '1998' contingent: **Graham Boyd** was "Bridesman", with **Debby Weis** and **Wendy Arntsen** also in the Bridal Party. The highlight of the service was two choral works sung predominantly by ex-Robinson choir members, including **Anna Foster** (1997), **Rhian & Chris Collins** and **Graham Boyd**, lead by **Huw Daniel** who later in the evening also played a piano duet with the bride. **Laura White** and **Hayley Shedden** also joined the celebration, and **Robin Drummond** was missed. Gill & Barney's daughter, Carla, stole the show in her bespoke wedding car! (Picture below)



Alex Churchill (1997) writes: A board game I designed has been published! The game “Steam Works” was published by Tasty Minstrel Games in the autumn and has been getting excellent reviews online.



In recognition of his outstanding service to Engineering, Robinson Fellow, Professor **Nicholas Collings** was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering by Brunel University. Nick Collings is Professor of Applied Thermodynamics in the Department of Engineering, and Head of the Division of Energy, Fluid Mechanics and Turbomachinery at the University of Cambridge. He is jointly responsible (with Professor Keith Glover) for the Engine Emissions Instrumentation and Control group. He has authored or co-authored over 80 technical publications on internal combustion (IC) engine topics. Several projects involving the measurement of emissions from engines have resulted in commercial exploitation by a university spin-off company, Cambustion Ltd, of which he was a founding director. Nick is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Mechanical Engineers (UK) and the Society of Automotive Engineers (USA). His research interests are IC engines, gas sensors and emissions, whilst other interests include golf and opera.

Cheryl Collins (1982) writes: In November 2015 I became an honorary Canon of St. Edmundsbury Cathedral. I have also been selected for a national course for women clergy called ‘Leading Women’, which prepares individuals for leadership roles.

Clare de Castella (1989) writes: After 17 years living in Sydney, I’ve moved to Australia’s much maligned capital, Canberra, with my husband, Migsy, and 3 sons, Harry (8), Angus (6) and Louis (4). We’re really enjoying the relative space, peace, wildlife (kangaroos grazing on our lawn), and I’m working as Communications Manager for the Australian National University Climate Change Institute and Energy Change Institute (an antidote to the peace).

Giselle de Nie (Bye Fellow, 1994) has a new work: *Gregory of Tours, Lives and Miracles*, translated by Giselle de Nie. *Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library* vol. 39. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. 2015. 976 p.

Dr David Dorrell (1990) was appointed in December 2015 as Professor of Electrical Machines with The University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa. This follows 7 years with the University of Technology Sydney as an Associate Professor.

Sheila Duffy (1980) was awarded honorary membership of the UK Faculty of Public Health in June 2015 in recognition of her work on tobacco & health.

Lorna Fenech (1980, née **Barker**) writes: In 2016 I will become Principal (head teacher) of Adelaide West Special Education Centre. The school specialises in the education of children and young people with complex communication needs, physical disabilities and a range of other disabilities. The ability to communicate effectively is one of the basic rights, joys and needs of being a human being. People without a functional communication system are not only deprived of these joys and rights, but are also exposed to greater risks of abuse than those who can communicate. Supporting the development of communication is therefore fundamental to the whole school curriculum. About 90% of the school student population are completely non-verbal and are encouraged to use a range of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), including simple visual symbols, communication books, iPads with communication apps and eye gaze systems.

We are delighted to announce that Robinson Fellow, **Professor Peter Hutchinson**, has been awarded the Herbert Olivecrona Award, known as the “Nobel Prize of Neurosurgery”, in recognition of his important contributions to Neuroscience and for his pioneering work to bring Microdialysis as a clinical tool into Neuromonitoring. Professor Herbert Olivecrona (1891-1980) was an internationally renowned neurosurgeon, credited as being the father of modern neurosurgery in Sweden. He was Professor of Neurosurgery at Karolinska Institutet from 1935 to 1960. Almost every year since 1976 the Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, in collaboration with the Department of Neurosurgery, Karolinska University Hospital, honours an international neurosurgeon for his/her contributions to brain or spinal cord surgery and/or research.

Ivan Langella (2011) won the ARCHER Image Competition in 2015. His image Number 29 entitled “Music, order and chaos in a combustion chamber” was produced as part of his work on ARCHER project “Study of interacting turbulent flames”. The image was selected by the judges for its combination of dramatic visual impact, and clear, accessible description of the underlying science and project aims. A gallery of all the submitted images is available to view at [http://www.archer.ac.uk/about-archer/news-events/events/image-comp/gallery-2015/\[1\]](http://www.archer.ac.uk/about-archer/news-events/events/image-comp/gallery-2015/[1])



Ruth O’Keefe (1981) was elected as Chair of Lewes District Council in May, for the Year 2015-16, and was awarded the MBE in the 2016 New Year’s Honours List.

Jonathan Reeve (1991) writes: I am living in Melbourne with my wife Anna and sons Leo (8) and Max (6). I am now an Australian Citizen and have set up my own consulting company, focused on online retail. I would love to catch up with anyone from matriculation year 1991 who happens to visit Melbourne.

Neil Mullarkey (1980) writes: The Comedy Store Players, the improvised comedy troupe which I started with Mike Myers and Paul Merton in 1988, celebrated its 30th anniversary in October. We are still going strong on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Any Robinson folk are most welcome. At the very least, I can arrange premium seats for you and loved ones or colleagues. Find me on Linked In, Twitter, Facebook or via NeilMullarkey.com. (Picture below)



Mauro Galetti Rodrigues (1991) writes: Back to Robinson after 18 years. Here we are in the small cottage that I used to live while in Robinson, with my wife Carina, my daughter Gabriela and my son Leonardo. This cottage brings me such good memories.



Ed Samulski (Bye Fellow 1985-6) retired from the University of North Carolina after launching a new department, Applied Physical Sciences. He is now shepherding a 3D printing company in Redwood City, CA (Carbon3D.com).

Brian Skeet (1985) has now launched his own film company, www.joanproductions45.com and is currently on prep on four films "The life and death of Martin Lazlo", "House of Deaths", and two films headlining award winning Canadian actress Deborah Kara Unger. On the website is a short film called "Broken hearts - a love story" that Brian shot in just one day. He has been married to Terry Cummings for nine years now and sadly lost his beloved father last last year.

Talbot Stark (1992) has been promoted to Global Head of Institutional Flow Sales - Global Markets BNP PARIBAS.

After an international academic career in the history of science (and as Munby Fellow at the UL, 2013-14), **Anke Timmermann** (2003) has moved to London to continue work on books and manuscripts as an antiquarian bookseller at Bernard Quaritch, est. 1847. Anke was recently elected Fellow of the Linnean Society, and is specialising in rare books on Travel, Human Sciences and Natural History.

Anthony Toole (1984) writes: I'm still working as an actuarial contractor in the run up to the implementation of Solvency II - the list of companies now assisted/hindered reads CIS (now The Co-operative Banking Group), HBos (now LBG), Aviva, AdminRe, Sun Life Financial of Canada, Zurich Assurance Limited, Friends Life (now Aviva) and Zurich again. My wife, Taffi, is in her final year of her MA studies and I had the opportunity to visit her home country of Zimbabwe recently - fabulous. My sons, James and George, are finding their own way in life in London at the Civil Service and PwC respectively. I'd love to get together again with anyone I know from 'Bobz' so, if you remember me, ping me an email at anthonytoole@virginmedia.com

Anthony Waterman (Bye Fellow, 1986) was inducted as an Honorary Member of the European Society for the History of Economic Thought at its annual meeting in Rome, May 2015, and made a speech to the General Assembly. This award recognised research begun when Anthony was a Bye Fellow of Robinson, 1986-87.



On 29th January, **Angela Coyle**, Housekeeper retired, after over 30 years' service at Robinson. We would like to wish her all the best for her retirement.

College Merchandise

We have a few new items of College merchandise, all available from our online shop:

<http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/catalog/>



Blue ballpoint pen: £1



Black lined notebook and pen: £8.50

Name and Address

GIFT FORM



Gift Aid Declaration - Making the most of your gift

Robinson College may reclaim basic rate tax on gifts, if you have paid an amount of UK Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax equal to the tax we reclaim. This means every £10 donated is worth £12.50 to Robinson. If you pay tax at a higher rate, you may claim further tax relief on your self-assessment tax return.

I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

I wish Robinson College to treat this donation and all donations I make from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid Donations.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

For tax-efficient donations for US tax-payers, please give through Cambridge in America, via www.cantab.org/giving/how-to-make-a-gift.

Regular gift

I would like to make a regular gift to Robinson College of £_____ per (month, quarter, year) starting on 06 / / (date) for year(s)

Or, until further notice (please tick right)___

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

(Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen).

To: The Manager - _____ Bank\Building Society
Bank Address:

Bank Postcode:

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society: please pay Robinson College Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Robinson College and if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Name(s) of Account Holders): _____

Branch Sort Code: ___/___/___

Bank/Building Society Account No: _____

Date:

Signature(s):

Originator's Identification Number 412344

Originator's Reference Number:

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.

Single Gift

I would like to make a single gift to Robinson College of £ _____

by enclosed cheque, payable to Robinson College ___ or, I enclose a Charities Aid Foundation voucher ___ (please tick as appropriate)

or, by Credit/Debit card (please delete as appropriate):
Mastercard/Visa/Switch/AMEX

Credit/Debit Card No.: _____

Expiry Date: ___/___/___ Switch Issue No: ___/___

Security Code: _____ (last 3 digits on signature strip / 5 for AMEX)

I would like information about leaving a legacy: Y / N

I would like my gift to remain anonymous: Y / N

If you also wish to make a gift to the University, please tick here ___ and we will pass your name to the Cambridge University Development and Alumni Relations office.

I would like my donation to be used (please circle appropriate choice):

At the discretion of College

For PhD Scholarships

For the Lewis Research Studentship in Chemistry

For Student Support

Other (please state):

Please Return to:
Robinson College,
Development Office,
Grange Road,
Cambridge, CB3 9AN, UK

