

BIN BROOK

 **ROBINSON COLLEGE**
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Professor David Yates, the Warden of Robinson College 2001 - 2021
IN CELEBRATION OF 20 TRANSFORMATIVE YEARS



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WELCOME TO THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF BIN BROOK

It is with both pleasure and great sadness that we write this introduction to what will be the last *Bin Brook* for the current Warden, Professor David Yates.

It is of course a great pleasure to be part of the *Bin Brook* issue that celebrates David's many achievements in his time at Robinson. David handled the changeover from our much-loved first Warden with great sensitivity. From day one, he took time to get to know everyone in the College, from staff to Fellows. He quickly got to grips with putting us on a sustainable financial footing and that is one of many lasting legacies.

David has been a staunch champion of the College within the wider University too. He chaired the Colleges' Committee for five years to great effect, bringing attention to a more modern way of thinking about collegiate life.

Behind the scenes, he has been a strong supporter of Fellows in all facets of their lives. Indeed, his knowledge of and engagement with what goes on in all parts of College life go far beyond what many might imagine. He always took an active interest across all aspects of College cultural life, including the Chapel and its music, despite not being a convinced supporter of organised faith.

As all Fellows will attest, David is an excellent and generous host; his and Sue's Twelfth Night Feasts



Dr Mary Stewart (right)

Professor Melinda Duer

will not be forgotten by any of us. His toasts to the catering team on these occasions were genuine and heartfelt and very much testify to the person David Yates is. And most recently, it has been our very good fortune to have David guiding us through the unprecedented crisis presented by COVID.

But equally, there is huge sadness in saying goodbye to someone who for so many of us is much more than the Head of House: friend, mentor, confidant, champion. But enough of that: this issue of *Bin Brook* is to celebrate David's Wardenship. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Dr Mary Stewart

Deputy Warden when David Yates was elected Warden

Professor Melinda Duer

Deputy Warden ■



FRONT COVER: Professor David Yates and The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh during the Prince's last visit to the College on 22 June 2011.
PHOTO: Robinson College Archive.

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We are always delighted to hear from anyone who has a Robinson-related story to tell. If you would like to contribute an article to *Bin Brook*, please email development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk.

And here's to you, Warden of Robinson

THIS IS THE STORY OF A STRONG LEADER WHO HAS TAKEN ROBINSON COLLEGE FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH, SERVING AS WARDEN SINCE 2001 WHEN BLACKBERRIES, TONY BLAIR AND DAVID BECKHAM WERE IN VOGUE.

In a warm Zoom interview conducted by Robinson alumnus and distinguished public law barrister Philip Moser QC, I found out about Professor Yates' distinguished career.

The Warden's career began in Oxford where he read Law at St Catherine's College. Having completed two years of training as a solicitor, he decided to return to academia and held lectureship posts at the Universities of Hull, Bristol and Manchester.

He was also responsible for setting up a successful law school in the late 1970s as Foundation Professor of Law at the University of Essex. It became one of the top six law schools in the country. He then went on to serve as Dean of the School of Law and Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Essex University, rising to Pro-Vice-Chancellor by 1985.

Frustrated by a stagnant flow of money to universities in the Keith Joseph-Margaret Thatcher years and the consequent reliance on high fee-paying international students to fill the coffers, largely regardless of educational considerations, he decided to join Baker McKenzie for a spell in the commercial world.

Although Professor Yates had been exposed to the world of legal practice for just two years as an articled clerk in the 1960s, his subsequent return to the profession saw him rise rapidly. He flew high around the world in planes as far as Sydney and flew high at one of the world's largest law firms, becoming a partner and its global Chief Operating Officer. He could not face saying a complete goodbye to the world of academia, however, and took on the roles of Governor and Chairman of the College of Law and was a member of the Advisory Board at the Centre for Advanced Legal Studies at the Catholic University of Leuven.

And then came the opportunity to serve as Warden of Robinson, which is the sister college to St Catz in Oxford where Professor Yates himself studied as an undergraduate.

He was already quite well connected to the college through his wife Susanna West Yates, who had studied here as a mature student in modern languages.

Yates was at a birthday party where he happened to meet a College Fellow who ended up being so impressed with his views on higher education that the Fellow put Yates' name to the list of applicants.

Dr Mary Stewart, a founding Fellow and former Deputy Warden, was tasked with finding the new Robinson Warden at that time. Forty-five people were approached to see if they were interested in applying for the Wardenship and eventually ten were invited to dinner with College Fellows. Those ten were whittled down to three for a longer visit.

Unlike the other two, Professor Yates did not take Dale Carnegie's advice of being "hearty in your approbation and lavish in your praise." Yet his more frank and honest approach to discussing the challenges and ambitions of Robinson won the Fellows over. So too did his experience in both business and academia which made him an ideal candidate for a role that needed someone who had inhabited both the ivory towers of academia and the glass towers of international business.

As the newest Cambridge college (established in 1977), Robinson did not need to stick to outdated, misplaced rituals to inaugurate the new Warden in October 2001. Instead, Professor Yates' inauguration consisted of just gowns, an oath in the chapel and of course champagne and dinner.

From the outset, he faced considerable challenges in his role as Warden. Being a new college, Robinson is not endowed so handsomely by founders and donors as older colleges. Robinson has had to make money and maintain itself through its state-of-the-art conference facilities. The conference business does not remain static over time. With smaller gatherings and breakout rooms being the new preference to large halls,



Sam Stern

is a first-year History student with an interest in radio, music and comedy. He plays football for Robinson and is a long-suffering Spurs supporter still searching for silverware.

In this article, he reports on the Warden Professor Yates' live interview with Philip Moser QC (Law, 1987) held at the Alumni Forum on 26 March 2021.

Robinson had to redevelop. Hence Professor Yates was heavily involved in setting up the new conference-ready Crausaz Wordsworth building in 2015 that has become an indispensable income-generator.

The Crausaz Wordsworth building was not the only construction to be completed during his time here. The Warden played a role in expanding College housing so that all undergraduates and a significant number of postgraduates could live in College, hence having access to facilities like the library, the garden restaurant and perhaps most importantly, the Red Brick Cafe.



Professor David Yates, the Warden of Robinson College 2001 – 2021

Another challenge facing the College was combining the desire for research with the need for teaching. By the end of his tenure, the fellowship has grown significantly but is still collegial and there are now Directors of Studies in College for nearly all courses.

Professor Yates was in his element stepping in to teach law, his lifelong passion. He confessed he had to do a bit of reading up on the law syllabus as his knowledge had become very specialised while representing clients across the world at Baker McKenzie. Times may have changed but Yates was soon once more ahead of the game. As a supervisor, he thoroughly enjoyed putting in a considerable amount of time to give his students the best possible feedback to help them become great lawyers.

One of his former students, Elliot Stevens, who graduated in 2016, has vivid memories of being taught by Professor Yates. He remembers his supervisions in contract and commercial law being both challenging and enjoyable. The Warden would hand out reading lists containing often upwards of 100 cases to read over two weeks. There was no chance of winging it as Yates knew each case like the back of his hand, helped by his strong memory and speed-reading skills. Stevens now works at the global Proskauer Rose firm, where to this day he finds the Warden's teaching an indispensable tool in being the first-rate lawyer he is (job please!).

Professor Yates' Wardenship at Robinson, and indeed his professional career as a whole, has been consequential, colourful and accomplished. He went from academia to high-flying legal practice and back, sharing the skills and perspective he gained along the way with everyone: students, clients and colleagues.

He claimed in 2001 that the ideal Wardenship term would be around seven years. We are all grateful that he made a rare underestimation and put so much more time into assisting Robinson College. We have been blessed that Professor Yates has provided such distinguished service to Robinson, combining the appearance and generosity of Santa Claus, the dry humour of John Cleese, the stamina of Angela Merkel, and a great intellectual mind, making our college a better place to study and to teach, for all of us.

Yates may be stepping down as Warden but fortunately he has no plans to stop teaching or writing about law any time soon. With the spare time he now gains, he plans to travel the world (once it is possible) and to properly get to know many of the places he briefly visited as a corporate lawyer. His dry wit and excellent leadership will be missed by all of us, and we hope to see him again in the College soon. ■



'WILL YOU SUPPORT THE SERVICES IN CHAPEL?'

A FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION FOR A NEW WARDEN

'Will you support the services in Chapel?' This was the question which one member of the Fellowship insisted on putting to everyone who was considering becoming the new Warden of Robinson back in the year 2000. The first Warden, Lord Lewis, had loyally supported everything that took place in the chapel. Would his successor do the same?

How David Yates answered the question posed to him all those years ago I do not know, but one of the hallmarks of his tenure of the Wardenship has been – until the pandemic intervened! – his regular attendance at the Sunday evening services. Although he certainly has not always found himself in agreement with the views expressed by the preachers – nor indeed fully appreciated the occasional unusually strident musical item offered by the choir and organists – he has attended just the same, refraining from giving expression to whatever adverse opinions he may have until he is able to do so in private in the SCR!

The Warden, often accompanied by his wife Sue, has also been a regular attendee at the Friday evening pre-Hall concerts, which have so long been a feature of College life, and at other special musical feasts laid on in the chapel by the Robinson College Music Society.

He prefers to listen rather than to perform, though a notable and eagerly anticipated feature of Christmas Halls has been his brief but widely appreciated contribution to the festivities, when, with obvious enjoyment, he has joined in the rendering of the phrase 'five gold rings'.

The question posed by that Fellow all those years ago pinpointed just one aspect of College life, but underlying it was the more fundamental question we were asking all our candidates for the Wardenship: would they loyally support the College in all possible ways, and would they, in the words of the promise made by the Warden when he or she is admitted to the post, 'in all things endeavour to promote the honour and well-being of the College as a place of education, religion, learning and research'.

David Yates has certainly endeavoured to promote the honour and well-being of the College and has brought his own gifts to the role, though no-one could have imagined the difficult circumstances in which he would complete his tenure. We are grateful to him for the work he has done over the past twenty years, and especially during these last months, in ensuring that the College can confidently look forward to the celebration of its 50th birthday in six years' time. ■



Professor Morna Hooker is a Life Fellow of Robinson College and Lady Margaret's Professor of Divinity Emerita

A ROBINSON JOURNEY:

FROM STUDENT LIFE TO THE WARDEN'S LODGE

Founding Fellow Dr Mary Stewart talks to Susanna West Yates (MML Pt I, SPS Pt II 1994), Robinson alumna and wife of the Warden, about Susanna's journey from working in the City to studying at Robinson, and later returning to live at the Warden's lodge.

Mary Stewart (MS): What brought you to Robinson from a job in the City?

Susanna West Yates (SWY): I was in a taxi in Rome and, because I didn't speak Italian, I had to speak to the taxi driver in Spanish. The communication wasn't great, and I thought: it's a bit silly that I don't know Italian. So, I went to night school to study that, and then it occurred to me that it would be great to go to university to study French and Italian. I came to an open day at Cambridge, loved the atmosphere at Robinson, and decided I could leave my job in the City. My children were already grown-up, and so I did A-levels and applied; I put Robinson first on my list because I liked it so much.

MS: That was a big jump from working in the City.

SWY: It was. It was a scary jump because I'd been director of a company and I was the only woman working in that industry for a long time (I was a sugar trader). And before I went to the City, I'd worked as a bilingual with French at the UN in New York.

MS: That's a good lesson for lots of graduates if I could side-track for a second: languages are very saleable!

SWY: Always! I've been an ambassador for languages to some Cambridge schools, and that's what I always say: if you have a language on your CV you'll probably get an interview, even if they don't want languages, because they'll be fascinated that anyone has bothered to learn one. In this country, especially now, we seem to be so reticent about that.

MS: They are very useful assets in the business world as well as life in general. So, when you decided to come to Robinson, what did you expect of life in the College and what did you find?

SWY: I knew there'd be intense study, and there was. The interesting thing is that I never felt older than the other students. And at that point my elder daughter was doing a Master's degree, and my younger daughter was about to go to university. The students were really nice, nobody ever treated me like their mum (I was old enough to be their mum!). I did play pool for the College once, and I wanted to play in the netball team, but I don't think they needed anybody my age (!). I loved the atmosphere of the College: the feeling of it and the closeness. I think that's because of the buildings – as you walk along the court, there's space between the buildings but they're not too spread out

and you're not traipsing across a quad with a sponge bag in the middle of the night or in the rain. So, I found it warm and welcoming and very nice. But I did find the study intense.

MS: But you had an enjoyable time?

SWY: I did, I loved it, and I was really sad when I left. I think it's the build-up to exams; you do them and all the adrenaline's going, and all of a sudden, it's gone. I got over it fairly quickly, but I did find it very sad to leave. So obviously when David got the job here it was lovely to come back in a different role.

MS: It's a slightly strange step isn't it, to leave as a student and then come back as the Warden's wife?

SWY: Yes. The thing is about Robinson, though, that the Fellowship is the best in Cambridge, there's no question about that. And the food here is the best, too, we know that – that's thanks to Chef Gary Dougan and his team. They turn out the most wonderful meals. Even as an undergraduate, the food was always really good. But it was the Fellowship, so welcoming, so kind, that I didn't find it strange at all to come back.

MS: Amongst all your Robinson experiences Sue, what stands out most for you, would you say?

SWY: I think it was learning. I just loved it. Finding out new things all the time. We realise in life that we know so little, and at least I learnt a few more things when I was at Robinson. That was the best thing about it, the learning.

MS: That's a very nice Robinson history, Sue.

SWY: I just think everybody is really lovely at Robinson; it's a great privilege to have been here in both guises. Anyone who comes here is very lucky, in my view. And so, to the Fellows, the students, and the College: thank you, Robinson!

MS: Thank you for saying that. It's been enormous fun and a great privilege to have you at Robinson. ■



Mrs Susanna West Yates



Dr Mary Stewart

SETTING A STANDARD TO WHICH SOME OF US MAY ASPIRE BUT NEVER ACHIEVE:



Professor Christopher Forsyth is a Life Fellow of Robinson College and was the first holder of the Sir David Williams Chair of Public Law at the University of Cambridge. He was for many years Director of Studies at Robinson.



Dr Brian Sloan first came to Robinson in 2003 as an undergraduate and was taught by David Yates. In 2012 he returned to the College as a Fellow and Director of Studies in Law.

Professor Christopher Forsyth and Dr Brian Sloan got together (virtually) to discuss their memories of the Warden and his impact on Law at Robinson.

Here is an excerpt of their conversation:

Brian Sloan (BS): You were around and already well established in the College when David was elected as Warden. Was it clear from early on that he was going to be quite so heavily involved as he turned out to be in the teaching of law at the College would you say?

Christopher Forsyth (CF): No, I don't think so. I thought he would be good at running the College, but he turned out to be one of the best kinds of academic lawyer blending both practice and theory. So that was a pleasant surprise to me when we got to know David. I'm sure you'd agree that he blends practice and theory, Brian?

BS: Very much so, and it's quite telling how up-to-date he is on legal scholarship. He likes to keep himself up-to-date on what's going on even if he's not actually writing himself at that moment.

CF: It's a standard to which some of us may aspire but never achieve.

BS: Yes, that's right. Although he was established for a couple of years before I came up as an undergraduate, it was a surprise to find that the College Warden – who looms so large for a fresher – was going to be so involved in teaching. I didn't expect to be taught by him nor that he would be such a key part of the community of lawyers within the College alongside his considerable other responsibilities.

CF: Yes I think that is the gem of the Cambridge experience, that you can find yourself being supervised by people who are very distinguished and often at the top of their field.

BS: I remember him telling us that we should be expected to read 60 pages of case reports in an hour and digest what the case was about. I'm still not sure I've quite managed that, even now.



Robinson College Law Society Ball 2016.

*Top row left to right:
Elliot Stevens, Michael Panayi.*

*Middle row, left to right:
Elle Mackenzie, Julija Stukalina, Laura Ridley, Ng Liang Yaen.*

*Front row, left to right:
Professor David Yates, Professor Christopher Forsyth, Dr Brian Sloan*

CF: I'm not sure that I managed that at all either.

BS: He's also been instrumental in developing links with lawyers internationally, hasn't he?

CF: Well, that's where the Sir David Williams Chair comes in. That required a great deal of money to be raised, mostly through the generosity of the Li family, and David consulted and assisted, went to Hong Kong, spoke innumerable times to the Council of the University and so forth, to try and get this benefaction underway. David Li and David Yates together pushed it through and that's an abiding achievement. Robinson will in perpetuity have one of the country's leading public lawyers amongst its Fellowship and that's something worth noting.

BS: Absolutely. ■

TRIBUTES FROM HONG KONG

Dr the Hon. Sir David Li

Sir David Li (Selwyn, 1961) is Executive Chairman of the Bank of East Asia and a former member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong and the Executive Council of Hong Kong.

Dear Friends,

I'm very grateful to the College for this opportunity to pay a personal tribute to the Warden upon his retirement. David has been a great friend of my family and me from the day he was appointed to lead the College.

Penny and I feel very fortunate that our son Adrian is a Robinson alumnus, thus paving the way for us to meet David and his charming wife Sue. We soon found out that we have much in common and share many of the same interests. We now count David and Sue among our dearest friends.

First and foremost, the Warden and I share a passion for the law. Nothing pleases us more than to discuss the finer point of an important public law judgment. And following from our first love, we both hold our university's first full-time Vice-Chancellor, the late Professor Sir David Williams, in the highest esteem. Sir David is the author of two landmark books on the tension between security and freedom in a democratic society – a question I have pondered long and deep.

I am both proud and grateful to have worked closely with the Warden to establish a chair in public law at Robinson College to honour Sir David. We would still be waiting for the chair if not for the Warden's bulldog-like tenacity, challenging anyone who would deny him the right to honour our hero.

Well, David Yates is also my hero. His retirement is the end of an era, a glorious era.

I wish Sue and David good health, long and happy life together, and Penny and I greatly look forward to seeing much more of them in the future now David no longer has a college to run.



From left: Brian Li (Trinity, 1992), Sir David Li (Selwyn, 1961) and Adrian Li (Robinson, 1992)

Adrian Li

Adrian Li (Law, 1992) is Co-Chief Executive of the Bank of East Asia, where he is responsible for overall management and control of the bank group with a particular focus on its Hong Kong business.

I graduated from Robinson College in 1995. As such, I did not have the privilege of studying under Professor Yates, but I have since come to know him as a close family friend.

Much has changed in the world around us since he took over from Lord Lewis as Warden some 20 years ago. Throughout this time, the unique traditions and characteristics of Cambridge and its colleges have persevered. Yet to meet the demands of the new era, great efforts have been necessary behind the scenes, and Robinson has thrived under Professor Yates' leadership.

Indeed, in the past 20 years the college has gone from strength to greater strength:

- Its academic standing has improved against the very best in the world
- Its financial position has strengthened
- It has attracted leading talents to teach and research
- More scholarships have been made available, providing opportunities to study to the best and brightest from all walks of life

The Warden is insightful yet practical. He is proactive and forward-thinking, with an international outlook and global connections. He came to Robinson following a hugely successful career in law and has very high standards both for himself and those around him.

To give one small example, I will never forget hearing that his prerequisite for a successful law student was to be able to read and fully digest a law book at a page per minute. I am very glad that I graduated before his time, as I am unsure I would have met his standards!

Beyond all of this, Professor Yates is renowned throughout the Robinson community for his warmth and humanity. Through his strength of character and depth of connections, he has raised the college's standing worldwide. I have many fond memories of his visits to Hong Kong over the years and am dearly looking forward to welcoming him back soon!

In closing, I would like to note that Robinson is a very young college. But through Professor Yates' tireless efforts, we have an incredible legacy. ■

This is a transcript of two video tributes submitted for Asia Pacific Warden's farewell event held on 13 May 2021 online.

REFLECTIONS & REMINISCENCES

MEMBERS OF ROBINSON COLLEGE COMMUNITY SHARE THEIR MEMORIES OF PROFESSOR DAVID YATES AND THEIR EXPERIENCES OF WORKING WITH HIM OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS.

Elliot Stevens (Law, 2013)



I was taught by the Warden for contract law and commercial law in my second and third years at Robinson. I do look back fondly at supervisions with Professor Yates.

His teaching style certainly presented its own kinds of challenges. He had a tendency to give you a reading list for each two-week supervision period

that would contain possibly upwards of 100 cases, each of which may have easily over 20, even 50 pages.

It was quite a challenge to read all the way through the Warden's reading lists. And it was even more of a challenge when you realised that the Warden basically had committed every single word of these judgments to memory! But it was clear that he did all that he did just to ensure that his students excelled and really understood contract law.

His attention to detail and level of focus inspired me. I use the kind of thinking that I developed under his teaching every day in my law practice. I'm grateful for the way the Warden's teaching and example have influenced me.'

Elizabeth Pettit Executive Assistant to the Warden



When I took the job at Robinson, I remember thinking "Oh, this will suit me for a couple of years, especially while the kids are small. The gardens are lovely and everyone's so friendly". Skip forward almost twenty years and I'm still here, older, hopefully, wiser, definitely fatter (thank you Robinson chefs) wondering how on earth I can possibly distil the essence of the last two decades into a few short paragraphs.

Being a Head of House's Assistant has its own unique challenges and this job is no exception, but what has kept it both enjoyable as well as stimulating over the years is down to one overriding factor. It has been my great good fortune to work for someone who invariably knows the answer to any question you ask him, especially if it involves anything legal, procedural (or culinary!) Someone who gets straight to the point. Sometimes robustly? Definitely, but often with impish good humour too.

No matter how busy I am, I know that his workload dwarfs mine. Over the years, I have appreciated his straight-talking, his high standards and his ability to immediately cut through the waffle and see what is important. I have tried not to be intimidated by that fearsome intellect and have, in my braver moments, debated both politics and religion, with us only falling out once in 20 years. It's been an eye-opener to occasionally compare David with other Heads of House. *continued...*

In conversations with other Head of House Assistants, they have told me of their struggles to get their own HOH to answer correspondence, make decisions or sign things off. One particularly dogged PA had to regularly field calls, run interference and send out search parties when their Master went AWOL – sometimes before meetings – invariably tracking him down to the SCR, where he'd be scoffing cake and reading the paper (true). There was another example, where the election of a new Master (a college that remains anonymous to protect the innocent) resulted in three PA's being hired then walking out within the first eighteen months. With that in mind, just a couple of weeks ago, I said to David:

“Between Lucia (my predecessor) and me, you've only had two Assistants in 35 years, so you're obviously not such a bad old stick!”

It does feel, therefore, to be particularly unfair that, after such a long and illustrious Wardenship, this farewell year which, in normal times, would have been packed with festivity and celebration, has been effectively cancelled out by the pandemic. However, I am sure I am not alone in thinking that the College is very lucky to have been steered through such difficult times, by a team of exceptional College Officers who have, at their head, such an able, dedicated and hard-working Warden.

I've rambled on for far too long already, so would just like to finish by wishing both David and Sue a long and healthy retirement, which I am sure will also be an enjoyable and interesting one.

Michael Panayi (Law, 2012)



I have many fond memories of taking contract law with the Warden (though I miss his supervisions more than I miss his rather intimidating supervision sheets!). One thing that should be stressed is how willing the Warden was to make himself available to help me (and other students) with more

challenging topics. It always stayed with me that that was a very admirable thing for someone so busy to do. He was also one of the best mooted judges I had (always asked great questions) and was great fun at dinner parties, too! Happy 20-year anniversary, Warden!

Wing Commander Peter Milloy, Fellow College Archivist and Finance Tutor



‘David and I joined the College on the same day in September 2001. Soon after this, we found ourselves in the SCR watching 9/11 unfold.

Inevitably during the rough and tumble of life as a Domestic Bursar, difficult issues arise and throughout my time, I found David hugely helpful and supportive.

To pick a few of his attributes that served us all so well:

- He was able to quickly see what the issues were and offer incisive and pertinent guidance.
- His ability to respond, seemingly instantly, to emails seeking help/advice in the most fulsome manner.
- He certainly does not suffer fools gladly!
- Though never overly effusive when you get it right, he does let you know when you have got it wrong!
- His ability to be a first-rate ambassador of the College within the University.

David's support and commitment to the 'family' that is the College has been exemplary, rarely missing a Friday Hall or Sunday Chapel. Of course, David, and Sue, have also been very generous to the College and the Fellowship through, amongst other things, their hosting of the Twelfth Night dinner; I even enjoyed his stories and jokes after dinner.'

Dr Liz Guild, Life Fellow

‘David had been Warden for a year when I became Senior Tutor. He was already developing the College's educational ambition, despite finances still being frail. We would meet first thing every Friday morning to discuss whatever needed attention, meetings much helped by his excellent coffee. The University Library was visible from his office window, just across Grange Road but tantalisingly unreachable during the term for a Senior Tutor – research isn't in the job description. To suggested projects, the reply – kind but firm – was almost invariably that they were not affordable. But I quickly learned that David would continue to



**Gary Dougan,
Head Chef**



College will always be held with high reverence. I am particularly grateful for his inspiration, suggestions and guidance which has helped greatly in contributing to the high standards of the Robinson table and the College's catering reputation across Cambridge and beyond.

The Warden's Twelfth Night Dinner menus have always been a highlight of the year. We have cooked venison, wood pigeon, red leg partridge and goose to name but a few. I often wondered if the Warden was trying to test our cooking skills in choosing these dishes as they must be cooked with care and attention, but actually, it's his sheer joy at eating these foods which was the real reason.'

think about what I had suggested, and spruce it up, pare it down or bolster it, make it attractive to potential donors, above all, make it doable – or produce a more interesting alternative.

We know how much his constant attention to all aspects of College life and

its educational scope, and his keen sense of the realisable together with his financial acumen, have benefited us all; as the financial position improved, so could our teaching and research strengths. My personal benefit was that David's attention to all of this was such as to enable me sometimes to take a break from my role and cross the road to the library for a few hours – not something that he gave himself much chance of doing, much though he had hoped to be able to when he became Warden.'

**Glenys Denton,
Former Senior Combination Room Supervisor**



looked forward to the after-dinner speeches at the Twelfth Night Dinner; they gave me many laughs. I wish both him and Sue an enjoyable retirement. Glenys x.'

'I worked on many functions for the Warden, both formal and informal. My best memories will be of the private dinners at the Warden's lodge. He would be bustling around the kitchen in his apron preparing a meal. I always felt on these occasions he was at his most relaxed. I also love his sense of humour and particularly

**Jimmy Bell,
Former College Butler**



'I was College Butler from September 1st, 1981 until 2009. Professor and I worked together for eight years. It was during some interesting times at Robinson. I wish the Professor and Mrs Yates all best wishes for the future. And I am sorry about the last year. Stay safe.' ■

A SURPRISE PARTY



Professor Peter Kornicki is an Emeritus Fellow of Robinson College in MML (Japanese and Korean)

I joined the College as a Fellow in 1987 and although I was for a long time Director of Studies and for a few years also a tutor, my focus for a long time was on my Faculty. As time went by, that began to change, and I was most heavily involved in the College during my eight enjoyable years as Deputy Warden from 2008 to 2016.

I worked closely with the Warden throughout that time, and still have vivid memories of my participation in tutorial interviews conducted by the Warden at which I was able to witness first-hand his forensic skills when presented with implausible excuses. I was astonished at how much the Warden knew about what was going on in College, at his ability to recall the names of all the students and staff and at his disdain for hymnbooks in Chapel - he knew all the hymns by heart.

In the light of this, readers will be able to imagine that when I was anticipating his 70th birthday on 5 May 2016, I had grave doubts about the chances of holding a surprise birthday celebration for him on the day. First of all, Dave Johnstone of the IT Department put together for me an email list of all the Fellows who did NOT include the Warden so I could safely communicate with the Fellows. Meanwhile, Glenys arranged the catering in the Crausaz Wordsworth Building and Sue arranged for some family members to be present. Separately, I arranged with the Director of the Chapel Choir for the choir to be on hand. So, in the end, quite a few people were in the know: was it possible that there would be no leak?

I had learnt from Sue that David would be working in his office until 6:00 pm so the difficult part was luring him to the Crausaz Wordsworth Building. This I entrusted to the duty porter, whose

task it was to tell him that there had been an incident in the Crausaz Wordsworth Building, that I was there but that I needed his help. Apparently, he was somewhat irritated but set out to help. I was keeping a lookout and spied him striding purposefully along the path. All those who were there on the day will remember that as the Warden walked into the room and the choir burst into a fine rendering of 'Happy Birthday to you' there was a look of utter bewilderment on his face.

We had all taken him by surprise, and it was one of my most gratifying moments in College. Afterwards, the Warden told me of a nagging worry he had: he had thought he knew everything going on at the College but now he knew that he didn't. Even the booking for the Crausaz Wordsworth Building had not aroused his suspicions: as we had feared, he did indeed cast an eye over the bookings, but instead of 'Warden's birthday party' the entry referred to something completely different. So, he wondered, what else was going on that he did not know about?!

Throughout my years working closely with the Warden, I was acutely aware of how much time and attention he gave to , and how often he had to give Robinson the benefit of his legal acumen. He has always been devoted to the College, always ready to do what he can to advance Robinson's interests and immensely proud of the achievements of its students, fellows and staff.

We have, in my opinion, been extraordinarily fortunate in our first two Wardens. As the tenure of our second Warden comes to a close with Robinson now on a secure footing and more confident of itself, I am deeply cognisant of all that he has done for Robinson and offer my heartfelt thanks. ■

DAVID YATES: A HARD ACT TO FOLLOW

DR REBECCA WILLIAMS AND DR ISABELLA ALEXANDER



Dr Rebecca Williams

Senior Member **Dr Rebecca Williams** is a Professor of Public Law and Criminal Law at Pembroke College, Oxford. After completing a BA and BCL at Worcester College, Oxford, she received a PhD from the University of Birmingham and became a Fellow and Director of Studies in Law at Robinson College Cambridge in 2001 before returning to Oxford in 2005.

Senior Member **Dr Isabella Alexander** is a professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Technology Sydney where she teaches and researches in the fields of intellectual property law and legal history. After completing a combined Arts/Law degree at the Australian National University, she worked at Clayton Utz Solicitors in Sydney. In 2005 she received her PhD from the University of Cambridge and took up a position as Fellow and Director of Studies in Law at Robinson College. In 2012, she returned to Australia and joined the Law Faculty at the University of Technology Sydney.

‘We both owe David a huge debt for having enough faith in us to give us our first full-time academic positions and thereby launching us in careers we have found incredibly fulfilling.

As Warden, he struck an ideal balance between giving generous support where needed but also allowing us the autonomy to



Dr Isabella Alexander. Photo credit: Toby Burrows

develop our work and our subject within the College. Neither of us can remember a meeting he chaired running over time, and they were always run efficiently, but with his usual warmth and dry humour. However busy he was with his role as Warden, he was also very dedicated to his work as a law supervisor, and many cohorts of students have benefited enormously from his very practical approach to the teaching of contract law, which brilliantly complemented the more theoretical perspectives on the subject.

His dedication to the students saw him driving to the middle of the Norfolk countryside each year, to stay at the (delightfully?) idiosyncratically furnished Gunthorpe Hall for the Law Revision Week. Indeed, his support of Revision Week more generally has assisted successive cohorts of Robinson lawyers to achieve that extra edge on the subject, helping them do as well as possible in their exams. And of course, we both remember David’s enormous warmth, wisdom and encouragement, whether it took the form of his thoughtfulness in providing delicious vegetarian food when such a thing was hard to come by, sharing his wine cellar and extensive knowledge of both food and wine, or more generally by supporting our extra-Robinson lives, in particular Isabella’s parenting responsibilities (baby Katharine was a welcome addition to Revision Week despite her lack of legal knowledge). He will be an incredibly hard act to follow, and Robinson will miss him greatly.’ ■

TWO DECADES APART BUT LOTS IN COMMON

THE STORY OF TWO LAW STUDENTS



Pamela Dusu



Drew Chateau

Pamela Dusu (Law, 2000) is a Project Development Lawyer with a focus on power and infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa. Pamela is currently in-house senior counsel at Globeleq, a private sector developer and owner of power plants comprising renewable energy and traditional energy sources. After spending some time working at Deutsche Bank and UBS, Pamela trained as a lawyer at the London office of American law firm Shearman & Sterling before moving on to DLA Piper.

Drew Chateau (Law, 2018) is a Third Year Law undergraduate student.

We brought together law students from the beginning and end of Professor Yates' wardenship. Here's what happened. Nearly two decades separate the Robinson experiences of Pamela Dusu and Drew Chateau – both students under Warden Professor David Yates – but the two soon discovered they had lots in common. Fast forward a couple of months of mentoring and Pamela has helped Drew to take the next step towards her legal career. Read their stories here:

Drew's story:

I had thought about trying to find a mentor before and I knew I wanted to be a solicitor, but apart from doing a vacation scheme, I hadn't had a chance to go any further. So, I jumped at the chance of having a mentor when Catherine [from the Development Office] called to say she had someone in mind.

I loved talking to a woman of similar heritage and felt we were able to connect on multiple levels. Seeing that someone like me can succeed in law was inspirational. Pam helped me with every aspect of preparation for my interview, from research ideas to presenting myself, interview role-play and case-study practice. She even put me in touch with a current trainee at the firm so I could ask him about his day-to-day experience. It paid off and I was offered the first training contract I applied for!

Pam talked to me about my aspirations not only for now but further on in my career. I'd never really considered that before, but I do think it's important to have mentors at different career stages. Once you leave university there's no careers support, and having a mentor certainly helps me feel more confident as I step out into the world of work.

The best thing about securing a training contract? This is what I've always wanted to do ever since I was about 10 years old and realised that I probably wasn't going to become Angelina Ballerina after all! It's exciting to be starting work in the City, to be doing an intellectually challenging job with like-minded people.

In fact, being around like-minded people is one of the things I've most loved about Robinson. I've made lots of great friends here and hope to keep in touch when we leave. For now, I've just got those Finals to think about...

Pamela's story:

Having left Robinson 18 years ago it was a delight to be asked to mentor Drew. Not only are we both law scholars, but we also soon found out that we had so much more in common and we even share a mutual friend!

Apart from helping Drew to prepare for her interviews, we talked about her aspirations for her final year at Robinson and where she wants to be in future. Law has always been competitive, but I do think it's an ultra-competitive environment for today's graduates, especially with potential shrinkage of graduate intakes after Covid and Brexit.

While the university offers careers services and the 'milk round' is an ongoing fixture, tailored or personalised advice is hard to come by and knowing someone in the industry can be invaluable. I certainly would've done things differently had I known in my first year what I know now!

It has meant so much to be able to help Drew with her career plan and to see her succeed in securing a job with a magic circle law firm. I'll keep in touch and we'll next have a chat when she starts her training contract. ■

The College is always interested in hearing from alumni whose organisations could offer internship opportunities for current students. Please contact development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk.

THE PAINTING OF DAVID YATES

THROUGH ARTIST'S EYES



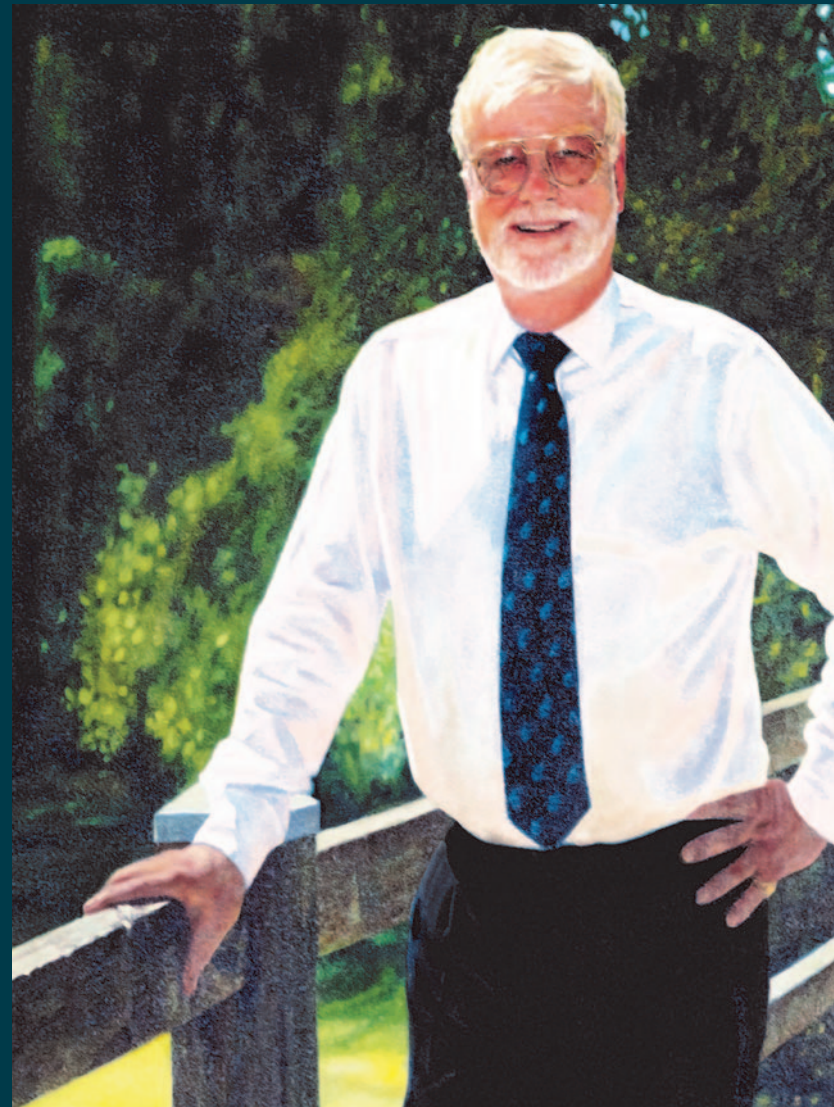
Mark Roscoe is a British artist and portrait painter, best known for his traditional portraits of business leaders and heads of colleges in London, Oxford and Cambridge. In 1998 he graduated with a BA Hons degree in Fine art (drawing and painting) at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and has been painting portraits ever since. He has exhibited widely, won several awards, including the much-respected Ondaatje Prize, and in 2016 he became a fully elected member of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters.

I met Professor David Yates in the Summer of 2005 which really seems like a lifetime ago. Although much has happened since to cloud my memory of the occasion, my first and lasting impression of David was that he was very warm and he welcomed me into the College like a cherished alumnus, which was wonderful. Despite the warm welcome I remember being kept on my toes throughout the sittings due to my relative youth and inexperience, and David had superior knowledge of art history, so I quickly realised there would be no getting away with "art speak" or waffle.

It had been a very busy period in the lead up to this commission and I had recently completed quite a few formal portraits of men behind desks or in college robes. When David said that he wanted an informal portrait, perhaps outside in the College grounds, I was immediately excited. It was going to be a challenge, but a refreshing change to the status quo. As luck would have it, the weather in Cambridge was lovely when I arrived, and we enjoyed a nice walk through the College grounds while looking for a suitable location. After discussing various possibilities, we both agreed that an informal standing pose on the iconic bridge with the trees in the background would be the perfect composition.

It's always a little daunting when a portrait is revealed for the first time, as the expectations of the artist and sitter can often differ. When I painted David, I hadn't yet learned how to find the best in people or in other words, flatter, so my painting was simply a record of what I saw: it was very truthful in a fine art sense. Thankfully, my subject on this occasion was not in the slightest bit vain and if memory serves me correctly, he loved the portrait. In his words, I remember him enjoying the "Staunch look of his midsection". The portrait has been quite successful over the years, in that new clients often ask about it, but the credit for that must be given to David himself, for his welcoming smile and personality.

For more information about Mark and his work please visit his website www.markroscoe.com. ■



David Yates by Mark Roscoe (2005)

AN ODE TO THE HOUSE OF WARDEN YATES



O come be our guard on these bricky towers.
 Stride strong through our courts lop-sided and long.
 Observe how these cellars cry out for fine wine
 The hall hankers, too, for exquisite cuisine
 (Yet meaty enough, for our Big-Mac rowers)
 And every Twelfth Night in a swell of black ties,
 Unfold the *Mail* firmly. Do not fail to flail
 Those rampant absurdities threatening our state
 Then walk by the brook lest it brew some wild spate.

You came, and with Sue brought new life to our tribe
 As brisk in committee as luncheon and tea,
 Ingenious, kindly and open of door,
 These hours unforgotten will ring down the years
 The profit be certain, books balanced, (Great vibe!)
 On green lawns let marquees in gratitude rise
 And Sue's ever-brightness protect us from yawns,
 Thus, saving us always from old Cantab bores,
 May both return often to these light blue shores.

Professor Robin Kirkpatrick

Life Fellow
 Robinson College

Md Asif Hossain. Photo credit: Josue Brocca



ROBINSON COLLEGE: A HOME FOR BIG DREAMERS

SUPPORTING RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD



Sarah Westwood
is a Fellow of
Robinson College
and Director of
Development

“Scholarships and bursaries from the University of Cambridge, Institute of Criminology and Robinson College not only diminished my sense of financial vulnerability but allowed me to dream big and expand my MPhil research in Criminology on police training to some wonderful heights.

“When our energies focus in the direction of education, we develop the potential to achieve anything regardless of our colour, gender or the families we are born to. Education means freedom to govern our own futures.”

Robinson College MPhil student Md Asif Hossain (Criminology, 2020)

Asif’s words say it all: Dreaming big. Fulfilling our potential. Freedom to govern our futures, regardless of our colour, gender or the families we are born to.

At Robinson we strongly believe in these principles and in the potential for education and research to achieve them. Perhaps now more than ever. After all, in a post-pandemic world, there has arguably never been a greater need for research.

And yet there remains very little financial support available for postgraduate students to study at the Master’s level. Many sadly

leave academia and their potential contributions to life-changing research are lost.

That’s why we launched the Professor David Yates Master’s Scholarships, to make much-needed funding available to those students who need it most.

The Warden firmly believes that academic excellence should be available to everyone and that we all have a responsibility to ensure that there are no barriers preventing tomorrow’s leaders from accessing a first-class education today. He benefitted from a scholarship himself, so it’s fitting that we celebrate his 20 years as Warden of Robinson College with these new scholarships.

It’s not too late to join your fellow alumni in supporting the Professor David Yates Master’s Scholarships. Please contact me, speak to the team or donate via our website. Your support will mean a great deal to David and to the research students who will benefit from the scholarship in his name.

I hope you share our ambition to make postgraduate study accessible to all. A donation form is enclosed to enable you to help us ensure that Robinson continues to be a home for big dreamers from all walks of life. ■

THE BIG ROBINSON BLANKET

In March 2020, when the world was shutting down, the Big Robinson Blanket was born.

Based on an idea by Sarah Beck (Geography, 2017), the communal international art project was inspired by the work of various textile artists and the importance of not denigrating traditionally feminine artforms as merely 'craft'.

The project involved 65 Robinson members worldwide, including staff, undergraduates and postgraduate students. With the help of Emily Hall (History, 2018) and Bradley Sawyer (Engineering, 2016), crochet kits were put together and sent out to destinations as far-flung as Hong Kong and Australia, and as close to home as Sylvester Road. In all, 96 squares were gratefully received. Special thanks also go to Louise Barnaby (Chemical Engineering, 2017) for her efforts in stitching together the squares.

The blanket is made in variations on Robinson's blue and yellow emblem, not forgetting hints of red to represent the tongue of the Pegasus! Its construction also reflects the College's green principles; longer segments of leftover yarn have been made into a blanket for the charity 'Knit for Peace', while the offcuts and scraps have been saved for use as stitch markers, and the stamps from returned squares will be donated to Oxfam for their stamp appeal. It has also helped many of our College members, as many participants have taken up crochet as a hobby after the project, testament to the power of a mindful activity in difficult times.

The Big Robinson Blanket is a tangible representation of the strength of the Robinson diaspora throughout the turbulence of the coronavirus pandemic and will be proudly displayed in the Library. ■



Sarah Beck is a third-year undergraduate student of Geography.



NEWS:

ALUMNI

1995

James Radcliffe (Classics) informs us: 'Having been a vicar for a decade, I'm really excited about returning to the educational sector and starting as a School Chaplain at a secondary school near Guildford.'

2000

David Gates (Geography) is delighted to announce that Jessica Rose Dilys Gates was born on 16 March 2021. A sister to John and Charlie.

2002

Andrew Ewart (English) will have his second novel *Replace You* published by Orion on 5 August.



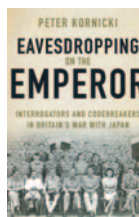
This speculative thriller is for fans of *Black Mirror*, *A Clockwork Orange* and *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*. He lives in St Albans with his wife Laura (née Pope, also 2002) and their five-year-old daughter Arianne.

2009

Tobias Shaw Paul (Law) has been admitted as both a Notary Public and an Affiliate Writer to the Signet.

If you have any news for the next edition of *Bin Brook*, please contact us at development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk by **1 October 2021**. We look forward to reading your stories.

FELLOWS/SENIOR MEMBERS



Professor Peter Kornicki (Emeritus Fellow) reports on his latest book *Eavesdropping on the Emperor: Interrogators and Codebreakers in Britain's War with Japan*: 'Unlike the USA and Australia, Britain did nothing to prepare linguistically for war with Japan, so from December 1941 desperate measures were taken to train men and women in a hurry to learn Japanese and to work as linguists, codebreakers, interrogators and translators. These measures were astoundingly successful, and the people chosen for

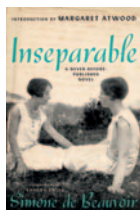
them were brilliant and resourceful and many of them later had very distinguished careers.

This book explains how it was done and what the linguists did with their skills – cryptography at Bletchley Park and similar secret organisations in India, Mauritius and Australia, interrogating in the jungle, interpreting on the high seas and, eventually, policing the Occupation in Japan itself. It is a story of success against the odds under the pressure of wartime, and it is a story of remarkable people whose achievements have hitherto been neglected and kept secret.'

Professor Dr Hartmut Leppin (Bye Fellow) was elected President of the Historische Kolleg in Munich, a leading IAS in Germany, in 2020.

Professor Andreas Resch (Bye Fellow, 2002/2003) informed us that Oxford University Press has published a book on Joseph A. Schumpeter, which he wrote together with his colleague Michael Peneder. The book presents the first comprehensive interpretation of Schumpeter's monetary theory and venture theory of finance based on his early works, personal experiences as a venture investor, and his later years at Harvard.

Sandra Smith (Senior Member) informs us: 'My translation of Simone de Beauvoir's newly discovered, never before published novel, *Inseparable* is coming out on 7 September published by Ecco/Harper Collins. It will only be available on Amazon UK. *Inseparable* is the story of de Beauvoir's relationship with her best friend, Zaza, and gives insight into Beauvoir's early upbringing.



I also have two other books coming this autumn. *The Prodigal Child* by Irène Némirovsky will be published on 14 September and, *In the Shadows of Paris: The Nazi Concentration Camp that Dimmed the City of Light* by Anne Sinclair, on 19 October. They are both published by Kales Press and also available on Amazon UK. *The Prodigal Child* was one of Némirovsky's earliest novellas, written in 1923 when she was only

20. It is a fascinating combination of a parable, fable and fairy tale set in what was then contemporary Russia. The Anne Sinclair non-fiction book is the result of her research into her grandfather's internment in a concentration camp in 1941 when all the most prominent Jews were rounded up and sent there to starve to death.'

Professor Roger Swift (Bye Fellow, 2001), Emeritus Professor at University of Chester, has completed a study of crime and policing in Victorian Cambridge. Based on research conducted largely during a fellowship at Robinson College, this original research, the first of its kind, has been published by Routledge as *Provincial Police Reform in Early Victorian England: Cambridge 1835-1856* and examines the development of policing in Cambridge in the broader context of crime and disorder in the city during a key period in English social history.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ROBINSON COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (PEGASUS)



Dr Steve Trudgill is Emeritus Fellow, Robinson College and President, Robinson College Alumni Association (Pegasus)

Dr Steve Trudgill

Robinson College Alumni Association (RCAA) did not host its usual AGM in March this year and it was agreed to 'write off' - due to the pandemic - the past year in terms of the committee's terms of office. Committee members will add a year onto their years in post, and we are hopeful that we will be able to reconvene for our AGM in person next March if not by September for the reunion. So, your RCAA committee remains the same and we are planning an Alumni Forum focused on the environment and climate change for March 2022. Any suggestions for content or speakers gratefully received! ■

Keeping in touch

Development Office
Robinson College
Cambridge
CB3 9AN


If you think we may not have your current contact details and you would like to update these, please get in touch to keep in touch:
www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/keep-in-touch

E: development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk
W: www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/
T: 01223 339 037

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<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2906475/>

Dates for the diary

We hope that circumstances will allow us to hold upcoming events in College. Once it is safe to meet in person again, we will welcome you back most warmly to Robinson. In the meantime, we will bring Robinson to you in the form of virtual events you can join from the safety and comfort of your home.

Look out for updates on future events in your email mailbox and the College website.

25 September 2021
Donor Day (by invitation only)

25 September 2021
Reunion Dinner
(Matriculation years: 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010)

29 September
Annual Reception,
The Law Society, London

November
Carol Service (date to be confirmed)

4 December 2021
Christmas Concert
