

# BIN BROOK

The Magazine of Robinson College, Cambridge



Celebrating our  
40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

M I C H A E L M A S 2 0 1 7



# Contents

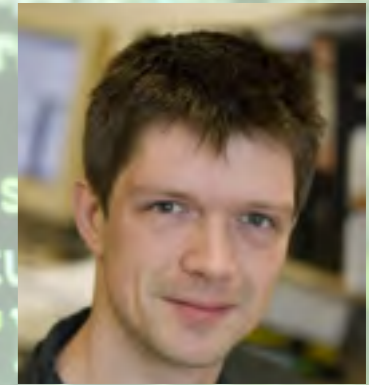
|  |    |  |    |
|--|----|--|----|
| My Robinson<br><i>Dr Alastair Beresford, Senior Member</i>   | 3  | Reminiscences of Robinson's first student<br><i>Dr Kevin Parker</i>  | 16 |
| An Atlantic Adventure<br><i>Harry Normanton</i>  | 4  | Robinson Research Notes<br>Learning <i>Dr Brian McCabe</i> , Emeritus Fellow<br>Legal Engineering <i>Drishiti Bindra</i> | 18 |
| Translating a Classic as a Graphic Novel<br><i>Mrs Sandra Smith, Senior Member</i>                 | 6  | Tour of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology<br><i>Dr Brian McCabe</i> , Emeritus Fellow                                  | 19 |
| Robinson's Firsts  | 8  | Singing Joyfully<br><i>Rhian Davies, David Warren, Harry Normanton</i>   | 20 |
| Dates for the Diary  | 11 | Sporting Life  | 22 |
| Welcome Back to Robinson   | 12 | Alumni News  | 24 |
| Robinson Reunion 2017  | 13 | Securing Robinson's Future   | 29 |
| Speech to the Alumni at the Reunion Dinner<br><i>Professor Morna Hooker, Life Fellow</i>           | 14 | Merchandise and Gifts  | 30 |
| Robinson College - A Short History of Its Beginnings<br><i>Professor Morna Hooker, Life Fellow</i> | 16 |  |    |



Photos: Cover page, The 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday chocolate tart served at the Reunion Dinner courtesy of Dr Brian Sloan. Above: courtesy of Dr Donald Richards

**Editor:** Norbert Truszczynski. **Editorial Committee:** Sarah Westwood, Dr Rosalind Love, Dr Steve Trudgill, Dr Judy Weiss and Helen Winter.

## My Robinson



*Dr Alastair Beresford joined Robinson in 1996 as an undergraduate to read Computer Science. After graduating with a first-class degree, he worked at BT Research Labs for a year before returning to study for a PhD at Robinson in 2000. During his years as a student he was both RCSA President and MCR President as well as playing in the rock band The Pelicans. He became a Fellow at Robinson in 2005.*

### What's your first memory of Robinson?

I originally applied to Jesus, but the interviews can't have gone well and I ended up in the Winter Pool. Robinson invited me for an interview in early January so I only really got a glimpse of the building when I arrived as a Fresher in October 1996. I remember going to "O" staircase for an interview with Dr Mycroft, as he was then titled, where I gave him a copy of a computer program I had written in a programming language called "C". He looked at it and said something complimentary about it. This was very kind since, as I later found out, he was the author of one of the best compilers for the C programming language at the time. I'm sure my programming skills, like those of almost all teenagers, were terrible!

### Why did you decide to study Computer Science?

Until I went to sixth form I thought I would study maths or physics at university. However, BT Research Labs offered 10 sponsored A-level places to school pupils about to start their A-levels. I applied, and was fortunate enough to win a place. As part of this, I worked as a BT employee in the school holidays, programming Unix workstations connected to the Internet. This was, in retrospect, a rather special thing: I was given a computer costing £10,000 and built web applications -- all when the World Wide Web was only four years old. Needless to say, I really enjoyed it and decided I wanted to study computer science at university.

### Are there any notable changes which come to mind during your time at Robinson?

One vivid memory is the queues for the pay phones when I was an undergraduate. There were four outside the Umney Lounge and there were long queues of students

after dinner waiting for their turn to use a phone to call home; very few had mobile phones since they were only available with an expensive contract. In the space of two or so years, something like 1999 to 2001, the pay phones were essentially replaced by students buying pay-as-you-go mobiles. Today we have so many means of immediate communication, it's hard to recall a time when nobody had a mobile phone. Instead you had to agree on a time and place to meet in advance.

### Do you have any special memories of the Fellows or staff here?

I think most students have fond memories of the support and help they received from their Director of Studies, and I've been incredibly lucky with Prof Alan Mycroft -- not only was he a very supportive DoS while I was an undergraduate, but he's also been a fantastic colleague, mentor, and friend since.

I also can't pass up the opportunity to mention either Malcolm Trotter or Glenys both are famous among the student population for delivering support, humour and discipline in the right quantities.

### What will you miss when you leave Robinson College?

I came to Robinson as a fresh-faced undergraduate, and save a few short absences, I have successfully failed to leave ever since. It's a wonderful place and there is a lot to miss in a place you've been a part of essentially all your adult life.

Many friends and colleagues have been surprised by my decision to move to Queens' College, however I've been at Robinson for 21 years and I feel the time is right for a (modest) change. I will enjoy the challenge of exploring a new institution and meeting new people.

It is undoubtedly the people at Robinson that I will miss most - students, staff and Fellows. Fortunately, I'm not leaving Robinson completely behind. I'll continue to be a member of the Senior Combination Room and supervise Robinson undergraduates; I'm sure I will also see many Fellows, friends and former students at alumni events too.

# An Atlantic Adventure

by Harry Normanton

Few slept aboard Rona II on the night of 15 August. As the 68 foot ketch neared the end of the trans-Atlantic tall ships race, scudding past the southern tip of Ireland, a long-anticipated storm swept in. The juddering lurch of the boat as it pounded through the three metre waves, and the persistent drip above my bunk, induced by the surprisingly porous nature of the foredeck, meant that it was almost a relief to finally be summoned by my watch leader to prepare for the midnight watch. After twenty minutes of struggling to put on my 'oilies' (heavy duty water-proofs) braced between the two tables that run the length of the saloon, any excitement I had felt had drained away. And seeing the previous watch climb gingerly down through the hatch that led to the cockpit, and stand silent and stony-faced in their sodden oilies, I began to look longingly to my damp bunk. To no avail. One by one, my watch clambered into the howling night.

It was like stepping through a portal into a different, darker, world. The soft red glow of the saloon lights seemed to penetrate only a few centimetres beyond the hatch, and the tiny green sparks of bio-luminescence on the sea's roiling surface only enhanced the impression of thick darkness. The lack of visibility heightened awareness of the sound of the storm; the shrieking of the wind and the crashing of the waves – first a shuddering boom as they hit the hull, then a hissing splat as their crests whipped across the foredeck and cockpit.

The watch lasted three hours, but it felt like six, probably because we had so little to do. Normally a watch would be broken up by changing and adjusting sails, but the previous watch had already reduced sail almost as much as possible (there were three reefs in the mainsail), and any further changes would have required venturing onto the foredeck, a risky proposition in such violent conditions. So I and the six other members of my watch were left to absorb the slap of spray against our backs and take it in turns to be 'lookout', a purely notional role since it was impossible to see the mainsail three metres from our heads, never mind a ship three kilometres away.

After an hour of awed silence, we gradually worked our way into a morale-boosting sing-song, which carried on in dribs and drabs for the rest of the watch. A particularly rousing rendition of ABBA's 'Dancing Queen' was one of the more surreal moments of my life.

This was admittedly one of the most dramatic nights of an otherwise relatively straightforward trip. For the most part we had favourable winds and fair weather. That is not to say that the race, which we completed in seventeen days, was not demanding. For much of the time we were sailing with spinnakers, the largest and most unwieldy sails. To maintain course, and avoid rips, requires absolute focus and constant communication from both the helmsman and those 'trimming' (adjusting) the sail. This was made particularly clear by the fact that we managed to tear one of the spinnakers three times, and to tangle the other one around the forestay so comprehensively that an unfortunate watch officer had to be hoisted up the mast to cut it down.

Even when not using spinnakers, sailing can be challenging. As this was a race, the skipper was constantly looking to make adjustments to eek out an extra half-knot of boat speed. So while some watches were passed quietly chattering and drinking tea, others were a relentless succession of sail changes.

And in many respects the sailing itself was the easy part. Living in a damp, confined space with twenty two other slightly sleep-deprived men required significant tolerance and good humour from all involved. Keeping everyone fed and maintaining a semblance of cleanliness was a constant effort. Each of the two 'heads' (toilets) had to be cleaned three times a day, or more, in case of explosive sea sickness. (One particularly stricken crew member managed to hit all four walls and the ceiling.) We also had to pump the bilges every day, and, occasionally, to dangle someone down by their ankles to fish out detritus that had fallen through the floorboards.

For all of its challenges, though, sailing also offers moments of great beauty and joy. I will particularly remember the clouds clearing on our first night watch to reveal a meteor shower, and the thrill, when we were becalmed, of plunging into the Atlantic, knowing that there was three kilometres of water below me.



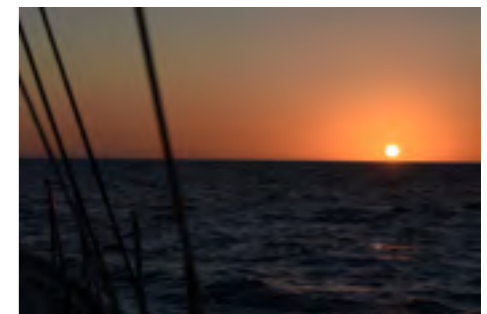
The difficulty and isolation of sailing also forge great camaraderie. Each watch put on small performances to keep the others entertained, and while they might have been a little rough around the edges, they



Securing one of the hanks



Full steam ahead



Spectacular sunrise

offered moments of comedy gold. An alternative nativity, in particular, will live long in my memory.

The race from Halifax in Canada to the industrial French port of Le Havre was the final leg of the 'Rendezvous Tall Ships Regatta', a four month sailing extravaganza involving over 50 ships that started in Greenwich and also stopped in Bermuda, Boston and Quebec.

I applied to take part in the race through the Rona Sailing Project, a sail training charity based in Southampton which I had done several trips with before. The Project's

central aim is to provide adventures for young people who have not had the opportunity to sail before, a goal they fulfil through week-long 'Sail Training Voyages' in the Channel. From the Project's perspective, this trans-Atlantic race was primarily a fund-raising opportunity; each crew member on every leg had to raise at least £900 to contribute towards a significant re-fit of the boat. I am grateful to those who made my adventure possible by donating to the Project.

*Harry Normanton graduated this summer with a BA in History. This year he is staying on at Robinson to take an MPhil in Modern British History.*



Dinner - a much anticipated event in the daily routine



Repairing the spinnaker on the go



The crew celebrates arrival at Le Havre... and victory in the race (Harry third on the left)

# Translating a classic as a graphic novel

## novel by Sandra Smith

When I was first approached to translate a graphic novel version of Camus' *L'Étranger*, I must admit that I hesitated. I had translated the book for Penguin UK, published as *The Outsider* in 2012 (it's traditionally called *The Stranger* in the US), and could not imagine what the graphic novel format would be like. However, when the publisher sent me the pdf file, there seemed to be a "sign" telling me I should accept the commission: the American publisher is called "Pegasus Books".

When I spoke to the Editorial Director, Claiborne Hancock, I asked him what influenced him to choose this particular graphic novel for translation. (There was, of course, the obvious reason: Camus' novel is one of the most influential of the 20th century.) Here is his reply: "It was always one of my favorite novels; the story of a man, already feeling slightly removed from the semi-phoniness of the rules of society, who accidentally seals his own fate when he unemotionally kills an Arab. The story blew me away, no pun intended, when I was 16 and read it in French, and it still resonates powerfully with me today in my 40s."

After reading the graphic novel version of *L'Étranger* by Jacques Ferrandez (published by Gallimard in 2013), I realized it would indeed be a challenge – and a most interesting one – to do the translation, especially given that I would virtually have to re-translate the novel without reference to the one I had done in 2012! There were many reasons for this. Firstly, while Camus wrote the novel in the first person, much of the description and dialogue is in indirect speech. The graphic novel, however, is mainly in direct speech. Furthermore, the graphics themselves inevitably shaped the interpretation of the novel, which in turn had to influence my translation.

Any professional translator will readily confirm that all translation is subjective. Even in one's native language, a given text will elicit varying interpretations depending on the social and cultural background of the reader. In this graphic novel, what was fascinating to me was to literally see Ferrandez's interpretation. Many of the characters were drawn much as I had imagined them, though some were not. I realized that a Frenchman's idea of a café owner or a priest or a judge or a policeman, for example, was quite different from mine, though still immediately recognizable. It was so interesting to see and compare these cultural stereotypes.

I also found that some of the illustrations of the scenery – so difficult to translate in a lyrical way through words – worked extremely well, because with any kind of visual

art, the impression is more immediate. Ferrandez makes us feel the entire Algerian culture with his drawings, which echoes Camus' change in style when describing nature. He also used his understanding of the great difference between the first and second parts of Camus' novel in his illustrations, which are very important to the book's themes: the first section is full of light and sun, while the second part is very dark.

Knowing I had to be guided by the illustrations and Ferrandez's interpretation, I got to work and was immediately confronted by the famous – or infamous! – first line, which anyone with the most basic French can read and understand: *Aujourd'hui, maman est morte.* (As any translator will tell you, the simplest things are often the most difficult.) Before I started my 2012 translation, I looked up the previous existing translations of that first line:

Stuart Gilbert, Vintage Books USA, 1946:

"MOTHER died today."

Kate Griffith, University of America Press, 1982:

"Mother died today."

Joseph Laredo, Penguin Books, UK 1988:

"Mother died today."

Matthew Ward, Alfred A. Knopf, USA 1988:

"Maman died today."

There seemed to be a consensus, but I did not agree with it. The use of 'maman' in French indicates a close relationship between Meursault and his mother, which is not conveyed by 'Mother'. Ward's translation that kept the French word 'Maman' also did not adequately convey the closeness, unless you were familiar enough with French culture to understand the nuance, in which case you would most probably be reading it in French. So I thought about how someone would tell another person that someone close had died: Camus was writing in the first person, having Meursault tell his own story, after all. With that in mind, I opted for 'My mother died today' and then used the term 'Mama' throughout the rest of the novel.

I was now faced with a dilemma: should I keep the same translation or try something different? (I've been telling my students for years that there is no 'one right way' to translate something, though many wrong ways...) I looked at the illustration: Meursault looks truly upset, which fit with my interpretation. I wanted to keep the word 'Mama' but decided to return to Camus' original structure, so the first line in the graphic novel reads: 'Today, Mama died.'

"I may not have been sure about what really did interest me, but I was absolutely sure about what didn't." -Albert Camus (*The Stranger*)



The rest of the translation was not as problematic and I enjoyed the work very much. The illustrations turned out to be extremely helpful, even though some of them did not mesh with my original interpretation of Camus' work. Pegasus Books published the translation in a beautiful hardback edition in 2016.

The graphic novel medium is gaining in popularity, particularly with young adults. I believe it is important to use this new format to introduce young readers to great classics, in the hope it will be a springboard, an incentive, to encourage them to read the full-length original works.

*Translator's Note:* I dedicated this translation to the memory of Jacques Beauroy, whom many Robinson Fellows knew. He was a great friend and many of us greatly mourned his sudden loss.

*Editor's Note:* Sandra Smith was subsequently commissioned to translate another graphic novel based on the story of Pocahontas. It was published by Pegasus Books in September, 2016 under the title of *Pocahontas: Princess of the New World* with illustrations and text by Loïc Locatelli-Kournwsky.

Pegasus Books has very generously sent a copy of each graphic novel to the Robinson Library.

**Sandra Smith, Senior Member of Robinson College, is the translator of all 12 novels by Irène Némirovsky available in English, as well as a new translation of Camus' *L'Étranger* (*The Outsider*, Penguin UK, 2012). Her translation of Némirovsky's *Suite Française* (2006) won the French-American Foundation and Florence Gould Foundation Translation Prize for fiction, as well as the PEN Book-of-the-Month Club Translation Prize.**



# Robinson's Firsts

This section of *Bin Brook* presents four stories of success where our alumni achieved their personal firsts: Liangchuan Gu and his team won the 2017 King's Entrepreneurship Prize, James Mcknight published his first historical novel *Letters from Erzurum*, Deborah Murphy described her personal experiences of the life as a nun in her first published book *The Tale of a Failed Nun*, and Elizabeth Hartley won a Best Orator Award at the European Human Rights Moot Court Competition in the Hague. Congratulations to them all.

## King's College Entrepreneurship Prize

Congratulations to **Liangchuan Gu (2012, Advanced Computer Science)** and his team RoboK who won the 2017 King's Entrepreneurship Prize competition. RoboK, a team of three University of Cambridge students: Chao Gao (King's College 2013, Computer Science; Certificate of Postgraduate Studies), Hao Zheng (King's College 2016, Economics; MPhil) and Liangchuan Gu (Robinson, 2012) won £20,000 for their invention, which is a novel system intended to be the next generation of robot control. The team's project addresses limitations in the safety and efficiency of existing robot control methods by implementing a unique and low-cost solution. The team believes that revolutionising how robots are controlled in the future will unlock many more commercial and functional possibilities.

This year's competition received over 70 entries from King's Members, and the deciding panel were thoroughly impressed with the quality and creativity of the ideas. 15 entries were shortlisted and awarded £1,000 each, with 6 finalist teams invited back to College to present their business plans to a panel of Fellows and King's Non-Resident Members. The live presentations were affectionately referred to as entering the 'Lyons' Den',



The RoboK team pose in front of King's College Chapel.  
Left to Right, Liangchuan Gu, Hao Zheng and Chao Gao

after Stuart Lyons CBE (King's College 1962), who donated the prize fund and sat on the judging panel.

King's College runs an Entrepreneurship Prize competition annually, where students, post-docs and alumni may enter to win funding for exciting business ideas.

The Entrepreneurship Prize competition, established by The Stuart Lyons Fund in 2014, was initiated to encourage and support King's graduates and researchers to develop and exploit promising ideas and concepts in the fields of entrepreneurship, innovation and competitiveness. The ideas could result from academic study in the sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics or the humanities, from research projects, from business study in or outside Cambridge, or from the creative stimulus that the College provides.

The entrants could be either solo or as a group; the only stipulation was that at least one member within the group had to have studied at King's.

## Letters From Erzurum

by James Mcknight

*James Mcknight (2010) studied English and graduated in 2013. He now lives in London, where he works as a freelance writer, editor, and occasional novelist. Letters From Erzurum is his first published book, but he hopes the first of many.*

This story begins in a time far distant from our own. A simpler and more innocent time. The year was 2013. The close of the year in fact, as Christmas held the world in its tinselly teeth.

I had left Robinson in the summer of that year and, with finals behind me, told myself I was in no hurry to get reacquainted with hard work any time soon. But the months went by, and graduation came and passed. Summer cooled and carried on into autumn. The period of relative leisure to which I'd grown accustomed at university came to an end. Emptiness burnt holes in my pockets. By the rhythms of the last three years I ought by then to have been back to work.

In short, I had spent autumn and winter searching for jobs. Whatever was going. As time marched on my standards sank lower. As many recent graduates will tell you, finding work – good work, with prospects and hopes attached, etcetera – is far easier said than done. I had a set of lofty qualifications now after all – a BA in English Literature – but it was hard to see what they qualified me for. At Christmas I got my answer.

It came in the form of a bundle of letters. Two bundles in fact: the latest generations in what had been a genealogy of copies, passed down through one branch of the family since the nineteenth century. One was a typewritten sheaf of papers in a now-defunct imperial gauge. The other was newer, A4, hammered out on a computer's keyboard. They told the same tale. One that began when James Denniston, a young graduate of medicine, finds himself short of work after leaving the university of Glasgow...



This young man was Scottish, a year older than I was then, and more than a hundred years separated his time from my own, but the start of his story was familiar to me. Almost laughably relatable. And yet what followed strayed far from my own experience and into something miraculous. A nightmare and an adventure by turns – that is, a story.

Being in possession of neither the kind of name that opens doors nor the prospects that come with wealth, Denniston commits himself to a

venture. He volunteers his medical knowledge to the Red Crescent: the Red Cross equivalent for the Islamic world at the time, busily involved on the Turkish side of the Russo-Turkish War. A giddy succession of trains and ships, bridges and boats, horses and mules and mountain roads carry him through Istanbul, along the Black Sea coast, and to the Anatolian interior.



James with Agnes and their son

Denniston is assigned to the Turkish fortress-city of Erzurum and to a soldier's hospital there. The letters continue through a Russian siege, extreme privation, epidemics. And they tell his tale in his own words, written at the time, and addressed to one Agnes Guthrie, the woman he would eventually marry.

It was this young couple's great-granddaughter, Susanna Everitt, who approached me with the letters that Christmas. This was her family's private mythology: the legend told at bedtimes for more than 130 years. She asked me what I thought of these letters. I said that they had everything – travel, adversity, romance, distant places, clashing cultures – all the seeds of a tremendous story. At which point, she asked a question that would change the course of my life for the next four years:

"A tremendous story? I always thought so. How would you like to write it?"

I'd been writing since my childhood. At Robinson I dabbled variously in poetry, prose, translation – how could I not with the likes of Robin Kirkpatrick around me for inspiration? – and restaurant reviews during the holidays. I had always hoped to make a career out of writing eventually. But here I was, barely out of university, and offered a commission: to write a historical novel based on these letters. It was an opportunity, a venture of my own, and I seized it.

A year passed, and another, and another. I slipped in and out of day-jobs, but the writing of this novel remained constant. I realised I was applying the skills that a BA from Robinson had taught me. Not so much how to analyse metre to within an inch of its long, long life; nor how



to translate Middle English or properly appreciate French poetry. But rather, indispensable life lessons when it comes to creative work and deadlines.

How to knuckle down, exam-style, and simply write without thinking too much. Likewise, the lessons taught me by my dissertations and extended essays. How to properly research a subject, of course, but also that

there is a point where research becomes another kind of procrastination — an excuse not to write what you're researching for in the first place. To admit that a first draft is only a first draft, and can always be improved. And as my novel went into the editorial phase of its life-cycle, I became grateful that I'd already learnt not to take editorial criticism too hard. It dismantles only to rebuild, and ultimately it's only another avenue of approach towards what one's final text could be — not, indeed, the only route to take.

### **The Tale of a Failed Nun** by Deborah Murphy

*Miss Deborah Murphy (2006) was awarded Bachelor of Theology from Robinson in 2008. She has recently published her first book entitled The Tale of the Failed Nun published by Amazon.*

I came to Robinson College as a mature student, I was twenty-four and I had already spent six years in an enclosed religious community in York. Of course, I studied theology (2005-2008) and I never lost the desire to be a religious sister.

After graduation, instead of returning to the Carmelite Monastery, I started to look for an Order where the sisters were younger and worked outside the convent walls. I found my dream team in "bella Italia" and I felt that God was asking me to put my hand to the plough and join them. I packed my bag, got on a plane and ended up in Italy. I spent four amazing years in that beautiful country, studying philosophy and theology alongside awe-inspiring women from all over the world.

In Italy I was prepared to go and work on the missions, and in the summer of 2014 I was sent to Ireland to a small community of three sisters, to work in a parish. I was full of zeal to get out there and put into practice what I had been trained to do in the House of Studies. In that land of saints and scholars things went drastically wrong from the very beginning and within six months I

With the manuscript finished, I found that I was older than its protagonist, though I had started younger. I felt I had learnt a little of the world, but learnt more of what I've yet to learn. What I'd produced was a work of imagination, but the hardest and most stunning facts at its heart were those that came direct from history. And I was put in mind of something Thoreau once wrote — or rather, that my DoS, Jeff Mackowiak, once sent me in an email: "A true account of the actual is the rarest poetry".

*Letters From Erzurum* was published in October by Polperro Heritage Press, under the name A. C. McKnight.



The English Hospital in Erzurum

was locked up in a psychiatric unit. All those horror stories of evil convents and wicked superiors came to be my daily reality, and one day my mind just cracked. I, the strong, independent woman, had become a dribbling mess. One Wednesday afternoon in the summer of 2015 I returned to the convent from the day hospital and I was told that I had less than forty-eight hours to get out, I was "persona non grata", a person unwanted. My mother and father bought me a plane ticket and I returned to Manchester. As part of my long recovery I thought it would be cathartic to write down my Irish hell and from there this book was born.



## **The European Human Rights Moot Court Competition**

by Elizabeth Hartley

*In the 2017 European Human Rights Moot Court Competition, the Cambridge team came in third place, out of 94 teams. Elizabeth Hartley (2015, Law) won a Best Orator Award.*

This year a team of three post-graduate students and I from the Faculty of Law, Rachel O'Sullivan (Trinity Hall), Darren Low (Downing) and Paul Erdunast (Sidney Sussex) took part in the European Human Rights Moot Court Competition, coming third overall.

The competition first consisted of a written round, where we compiled lengthy submissions discussing the legal implications of a scenario involving the alleged torture of a terrorist suspect in a 'ticking time-bomb' situation, as well as his potential extradition to a country with a record of human rights abuses.

We were one of 20 successful teams to pass the written round and in March 2017 we went to Strasbourg to moot in front of judges and academics at the European Court of Human Rights. Although we lost out to a Bulgarian team in the semi-final, I won an Outstanding Orator award for my performance in this round.

In all, this was an incredibly rewarding experience and certainly confirmed my ambition to work in the field of human rights in the future.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) Moot Court Competition takes place annually in May in The Hague, the Netherlands. The Competition welcomes universities from all over the world for a large scale moot court simulating the proceedings of the International Criminal Court. The Competition consists of an extensive six-day educational and social program, which brings together students of diverse backgrounds and cultures to The Hague to challenge their skills as future international lawyers. The final round is expected to take place in an actual ICC courtroom with ICC judges adjudicating.

From Left to Right:  
Darren Low, Paul Erdunast, Rachel O'Sullivan and Elizabeth Hartley




- 14/12/17 - New York City: Robinson Alumni Drinks
  - 13/01/18 - Graduands' Parents' Lunch
  - 27/01/18 - MCR - SCR Research Day
  - 07/02/18 - Robinson Lecture
  - 24/03/18 - The Annual Alumni Open Weekend
  - 24/03/18 - Pegasus Society AGM and Alumni Dinner
  - Lent Term - Robinson Law Dinner:
- Please check the College website for date announcement.

For further information on events and bookings, please visit:  
<http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-events>

We are very grateful for your continued support in helping us to stay in touch with you, our members and friends, and keeping your contact details updated. If any of your circumstances change, please continue to keep us informed either by post: Development Office, Robinson College, Grange Road, Cambridge, CB3 9AN, UK, by email: [development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk), or via website: [www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/keep-in-touch](http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/keep-in-touch)

 [www.facebook.com/RobinsonCollegeAlumni/](http://www.facebook.com/RobinsonCollegeAlumni/)

 [www.linkedin.com/feed/?trk=](http://www.linkedin.com/feed/?trk=)

 [twitter.com/robcollalumni?lang=en](http://twitter.com/robcollalumni?lang=en)

# WELCOME BACK TO ROBINSON

## The Annual Open Alumni Weekend,

25 - 26 March 2017

by Dr Steve Trudgill, President Pegasus Alumni Society

The March alumni gathering is open to all alumni of any matriculation year and in March 2017 we had alumni and guests from 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2011 and 2014 together with College Fellows. The buffet lunch in the Crausaz Wordsworth Building was attended by 40 people many of whom took advantage of the sunny weather and sat at the tables on the garden terrace. Some then went to the University of Cambridge Science Fair while others went to the Lord Lewis memorial at Trumpington Meadows and greatly enjoyed looking round the nature park area in the sun. Participants enjoyed this so much that some asked if could be repeated another year. The Pegasus Seminar was this year given by Dr Martin Brett who gave us tremendous insight into the early history of the gardens and the role of David Robinson and Landscape architect Bodfan Gruffydd; former Head Gardeners Stuart Limpus and Desmond O'Grady and current Head Gardener Guy Fuller attended and contributed to the discussion.

The Pegasus Alumni Society consists of all alumni and Fellows and all graduating students now automatically become members of the Society. The Society helps to

foster networking between alumni and to organise events. It held its AGM after the seminar where we planned further seminars: we are envisaging that future speakers will be alumni so ideas for names will be welcome. Also, in addition to London and Cambridge meetings, several local gatherings are now planned in places such as Manchester, Edinburgh and York. If you would like to join and/or start up a regional grouping with local events in your area, please let me or the Development Office know. The new members were elected to the Committee which is now as follows: President Dr Steve Trudgill; Hon Secretary Anthony Toole; Hon Treasurer Dr Chris Warner; Editor of Robinson Record Rev Dr Simon Perry; Committee members: Rev Roger Greeves, Robin Lawther, Rahul Mansigani, Saul Nassé, Rosalyn Old, SCR Rep Dr Alastair Beresford, MCR Rep Mark Driver, JCR Rep Rhys Goodall and Deputy President temporary stand-in Catherine Biggs.

Nearly 80 alumni and guests enjoyed the Annual Dinner. Participants were able to sit with year groups, subject groups or other groups as they wished and specified in advance. On behalf of all alumni, Pegasus Alumni Society President Dr Steve Trudgill and Hon. Secretary Anthony Toole presented Helen Cornish with a parting gift of an engraving of College by Geri Waddington. As Helen was actually in Hong Kong at the time with alumni there, her Deputy Catherine Biggs accepted the gift for her and read out a letter of thanks from Helen. Any feedback from participants will be welcome in terms of planning next year's event.



Presentation: from L-R: Catherine Biggs, Anthony Toole and Dr Steve Trudgill



Buffet lunch at Crausaz Wordsworth Building



**Emma Pearson (2000, Physics)** who attended the events of the Alumni Weekend wrote:

"Robinson Alumni and longtime Friends (from left to right) Eraj de Silva, Florencia Cano, Esther Lorente Rovira, Emma Pearson (2000, Physics), Dennis Hollich (Emma's Partner) and Robert Dudas reunited in Robinson College Dining Hall for the Annual Alumni Weekend of 25th-26th March 2017. Coming together from across the globe to share this weekend reunion in Robinson, we enjoyed our visit very much and offer our thanks to the Development Office Team for their organization of such a valuable and enjoyable alumni event."



## The First Annual Northern Pegasus Alumni Society Dinner, 6 May 2017

by Hon Secretary Anthony Toole Pegasus Alumni Society

A select group of diners enjoyed good food, stimulating conversation, fine wine and some rather excellent ale on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at Sam's Chop House in the centre of Manchester. Everyone left, somewhat full but insisting that we get together again as the evening had been such a success. It was an especially pleasure to see Malcolm Trotter at the event. Our former Bar Manager, who so many alumni will remember, travelled to Manchester to join in and his good company was greatly appreciated.



From left to right:  
Tony Toole, David and Nicky Forsdike, Paul Evans,  
Malcolm Trotter and Richard Burkinshaw

## The Limassol Get-together 14 July 2017

by Costas G Eliades (1984, Chemical Engineering)

The Robinson College Pegasus Alumni Society and the Cyprus Cambridge Society arranged a get-together of Robinson Alumni, Robinson Members and Cambridge Alumni on Friday the 14th of July 2017 at the Lounge Bar Terrace of the Crowne Plaza Hotel Limassol in Cyprus, on the occasion of the visit to Cyprus of the new Deputy Director of Development of Robinson College, Mrs Catherine Biggs.

The event was a great success as 24 persons attended of whom 12 were Robinson Alumni or Members. As most of the Cyprus Cambridge Society's events are held in Nicosia this was a good chance to hold an event in Limassol by the beach. We enjoyed a few drinks with a nice evening sea breeze and had the opportunity to talk with old friends who we had not seen for years, as well as meet up with new people.

Robinson Alumni had the chance to meet Catherine and current students back in Cyprus for the summer holidays and catch up with goings-on in College. Catherine gave each Robinson Alumnus or Alumna a Robinson College pin badge, a gift very much appreciated by the alumni.

## Robinson Reunion, 23 September 2017 Matriculation years 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002 and 2007

In the third week of September, Robinson College welcomed its Alumni, Fellows, Founding Fellows and Senior Members to the College's Reunion Dinner on Saturday, 23rd September. This year 2017 College was celebrating not only the matriculands of 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007, but also the College's 40th Anniversary. Back in 1977 College was joined by its first graduate students.

The Reunion Dinner was an opportunity for members to meet old friends, former students and colleagues, share memories and catch up on the past years since they last met. For many it was the first time they had visited College and Cambridge since they graduated.

The guests attending the Reunion Weekend enjoyed reacquainting themselves with College, and revisiting their old haunts in Cambridge.

Saturday afternoon commenced with the Pegasus Alumni Society Committee Meeting attended by the Society's governing body as well as the College Alumni Representatives.

A drinks reception in the Garden Restaurant commenced at 7.00pm preceding the Reunion Dinner in Hall at which Alumni were joined by the Warden, Professor David Yates, the Founding Fellows - Professor Mick Brown, Professor John Gray, Professor Morna Hooker, Dr Christopher Hughes, Professor Barry McCormick, Emeritus Professor Trevor Page, Dr Mary Stewart, Dr Mikuláš Teich, Dr Judy Weiss, Mr Henry Woolston, the current members of the Fellowship - the Director of Development Mrs Sarah Westwood, Dr Gary Doherty, Mrs Christine Latham, Dr Bill Nolan, Dr Joanna Page, Mr Ross Reason, Dr Brian Sloan, Dr Deborah Thom, Dr Steve Trudgill, Dr Chris Warner, Professor John Austin Williams, and Senior Members - Professor Polychronis Tzedakis and Dr David Woodman who were pleased to partake in this unique gathering and to reminisce with the College guests at the celebratory dinner.

During the drinks reception the College guests were treated to a number of historical exhibits relaying the story of Robinson, from the trowel presented to the first Warden, Lord Jack Lewis of Newnham for the Topping out of Robinson College on 1st October 1979, various photographs showing College at different stages of its construction and the matriculation year groups, the story of its founder, Mr David Robinson, to the College Charters, the wooden concept models of College and finally the College silver that had been donated over the years to our institution.

Professor Morna Hooker, Life Fellow and Founding Fellow addressed the College guests with a very moving speech which celebrated College, its past and present members and future generations of students who will join Robinson and take the torch from the current bearers. Professor Hooker stressed the poignancy of the occasion – a celebration of College’s 40th Birthday when the first graduate students came to Robinson.

After dinner conversations were continued in the College Bar until late, or even later. Sunday morning saw the Alumni, who stayed in College overnight, return to the Garden Restaurant for morning conversations and sumptuous Sunday brunch.

The Warden and the Fellowship were extremely pleased to welcome 250 members and their guests to College and they expressed a warm wish to see them again before their next reunion date.

## Professor Morna Hooker’s Speech to the Alumni and Robinson College Members on the occasion of the College’s 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday, 23 September 2017



Welcome to this very special occasion, which is a celebration, not only of your own individual good fortune in joining this College, but also of Robinson’s 40th birthday. In the context of the University of Cambridge, now more than 800 years old, 40 years is little more than the blink of an eye, but to those of us who were

here at the very beginning, they represent a significant achievement. It was a shock for some of us to realize that many of you were not yet born when the College began, and to you, Robinson was simply one of the Cambridge Colleges, though recognizably a newcomer on the scene, since it is clad entirely in red brick and lacks any ivory towers.

birth of this particular baby — our College — was not without considerable trauma. One or two of the older Colleges asked why Cambridge needed a new College at all, and suggested much better ways of spending the money — in their own back-yards. The residents of West Cambridge reacted with horror to the necessity to demolish two or three somewhat seedy houses, which had suddenly become valuable examples of Cambridge Edwardian architecture, as well as to the prospect of having hundreds of noisy undergraduates living in their area. Even the student newspapers published scurrilous articles about this upstart College. And during those early years we were regarded by some of our fellow-academics as an inferior institution which welcomed second-rate scholars and undergraduates. ‘Alternative truth’ is no new phenomenon, as the achievements of our pioneers demonstrate.

We began, officially, with a dinner, on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 1977, but most of us had been involved in planning the new College for at least a year before that. Present at that inaugural dinner were the Warden and 15 Founding Fellows, and though some have died, eight of us are here tonight — and two more would have been, had they not had prior engagements elsewhere. A few others were there, including George Coupe, the Warden’s Assistant, who did so much to help the College run smoothly. But the crucial members of the College present on that occasion were our first six graduate students, without whom we could not have existed, since the University would not recognize an institution that did not include students among its numbers. Those six are now scattered round the world, but we are delighted to have one of them, Dr Kevin Parker, together with his wife, with us this evening; I recommend his reminiscences in the booklet.

Belonging to a new institution in Cambridge in the 1970’s was a heady experience, for the University in those days was still a very stuffy place. How did one create a College which took the best of past tradition and combined it with new, progressive ideas? As a College of the University, Robinson inherited certain traditions — it necessarily had to conform with University structures and rules; but it was also forging new paths, since it was the first College to be founded as a ‘mixed’ — male and female — community, and as one to which both undergraduates and graduate students would belong. Which traditions should we keep, and which discard?

Eating together was one of the ways in which communities are formed, and fired with democratic ideals, the Fellows decided that everyone should eat together, and in our early years in Adams Road we did. When large numbers of undergraduates arrived, however, we quickly learned that they were not really keen on having their teachers breathing down their necks all the time, so we retreated to our own space.

Should we have formal meals? We soon discovered that

the undergraduates wanted them — that, after all, is one of the things which proper Cambridge Colleges do. Should we wear gowns on these occasions? Again, it was the undergraduates who insisted that we did so — even if they removed them the moment they had sat down in Hall. How else could one protest against stuffy regulations which one secretly enjoyed?

Should grace be in Latin or English? Some Fellows argued that it should be in Latin, because that was the language used in all the ancient Colleges, and would prove that the community really was a scholarly one. Others argued that it should be in Latin because no-one would understand it, and so it wouldn’t offend anyone. Two mutually contradictory arguments produced unanimity, and Latin was used at Friday Hall.

But our discussions were not all about food. We had to organize admissions and tutorial arrangements, appoint staff, stock the library, discuss the furnishings of the Hall and the Chapel, equip the kitchen and plan the gardens. Most of the work fell on the Warden, Jack Lewis, who succeeded in running a Chemistry Lab, mediating between

the Trustees and Mr Robinson, who did not always see eye to eye, overseeing the construction of the buildings, and creating a community which became the core of the new College. Unlike the older colleges, which have developed over centuries, Robinson was created in a few years — not just as a large building, but as a community of several hundred people. It was a remarkable achievement, and the Founding Fellows have no doubt about the enormous debt which the College owes to Lord Lewis.

Forty years on, Robinson has become an institution of which we may feel justly proud. In spite of expanding enormously, it is still known for the friendliness and good food which characterized it in those early days. But in the life of the College, it is to be hoped that these are still ‘early days’, and that a long and successful future lies ahead. After all, they do say that life begins at 40! I do not think that any of us on the 1977 table expects to be here in another 40 years’ time, but we feel confident that we can safely leave the College in the hands of our successors, and that it will remain a community where newcomers are made welcome and where scholarship flourishes.



**Top row left to right:**

Dr T F Page, Kevin Parker, Paul Webb, Catherine Martin, Martin Nally, Dr J C Gray, Dr L M Brown, Rev Dr W D Stacey

**Middle row left to right:**

Dr M Teich, Dr C P Hughes, Mr A B Shone, Dr A G Sharpe, Mr H J Woolston, Dr B McCormick, Dr A Feinstein, Professor M Agari, Cdr G Coupe

**Bottom row left to right:**

Susan Macken, Dr J E Weiss, Mrs H M Shire, Professor C O Brink, Professor J Lewis, Professor M D Hooker, Dr M E Stewart, Dr J Martin, Simin Tabatabai-Yazdi

All names and titles as they appear on the original photograph taken on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1977



## Robinson College - A Short History of its Beginnings

by Professor Morna Hooker

Robinson College was created as a result of an extremely generous donation by David Robinson (later Sir David), and in 1977 it was recognized as an Approved Foundation of the University of Cambridge; at the stroke of midnight on the 30th September/1st October, the small group of pre-elected Fellows became full Fellows of the new College. Several years of planning had already taken place, including the University's approval of a new institution, a competition to find the architects – Gillespie, Kidd and Coia, whose partners Isi Metzstein and Andy Macmillan designed the buildings – the appointment of Trustees, who oversaw the details of the building and the choice of Fellows and discussions by the Fellows about the character of the new College.

Once the decision to create a new, independent College had been taken, in the early 70's, the Trustees (originally chaired by Sir Jack Linnett) appointed Jack Lewis (later Lord Lewis) as the founding Warden. With the help of George Coupe as Warden's Assistant, he began the enormous task of bringing together the people who would build (literally and metaphorically) the new College. In 1976 the pre-elected Fellows began to meet once a month in Thorneycreek to make decisions about what kind of community they wanted to create and about how it was to be organized. We discussed the buildings, gardens, student participation and tutorial arrangements, but the most frequently-discussed topic seems to have been food! This was not mere indulgence, since eating together was one of the ways of building a community – which was why we met together at a neighbouring College every Monday evening for dinner. In our discussions, we were aiming to build a College which would be forward-looking (we were the first undergraduate College to be mixed from its foundation!) without being gimmicky, and which would honour Cambridge traditions without being stuffy.

Although the Trustees made all the important decisions (allowing us, 40 years later, to blame them for any inadequacies!), there were many details entrusted to us. Some of us remember, for example, a whole Saturday morning spent in Jack Lewis' room in the Chemistry lab., choosing door handles!

Needless to say, the moment we were recognized as an Approved Foundation, we celebrated with a dinner! Present were the Warden, the twelve Fellows, the Chaplain, the Warden's Assistant, Professor Brink – who had taken over chairing the Trustees after the death of Professor Linnett – and our first six graduate students. The inaugural dinner was held in Selwyn, but from then on, we were based in 5 Adams Road, with our own kitchens and dining-room, and that was to be the centre of our life for the next three years, while the new College buildings were put up. Several new Fellows joined us in those early years, and our first undergraduate students joined us there in 1979.

## Reminiscences of Robinson's first student

by Dr Kevin Parker

*After leaving Robinson, Dr Kevin Parker (1977, Chemistry) worked for BP for a number of years. He formed his own consulting company, KKI Associates, with consultancy mainly in energy/renewables, along with training and mentoring young people interested in high technology, spin-outs from the UK universities. Kevin visits Cambridge at least once a year, doing work for both the University and the Royal Society of Chemistry.*

When I visit the college and am asked about my connection to it, I like to say 'I was the first student at Robinson'.

I believe that I was the first person to actually apply to Robinson College in 1977, and the first student with a 3 year degree to graduate, in 1980. I applied to the College because a) it was new and sounded interesting and b) because the newly appointed Warden was the Professor of Inorganic Chemistry. I was the first person in my family

to go to University (Chemistry at Edinburgh from 1974-77), and when one of the Staff at Edinburgh suggested I apply for a PhD at Cambridge I was both excited and intimidated. Surely they'd never let me in to Cambridge? Perhaps applying to the Prof's new College would help?

It turned out that applying to the Prof's College did help, but not in the way I was expecting. I found Cambridge flat and foggy after Edinburgh (and Devon where I was brought up). The PhD was a grind, and the town was very quiet outside the UG terms. Of course blowing up a Chemistry lab at Lensfield Road didn't help my morale...

However, the College was great, and I spent more time doing 'Rob Coll' things than I probably did in the Chem Labs. The first group of students (6 post-grads, 3 doing Masters and 3 doing PhDs) lived in 5 Adams Road. This was 'the College' while the new building was being built

- and initially all the building was going downwards as hundreds of supporting piles were driven into the mud either side of the Bin Brook.

Did you know that the College basically 'floats' on a concrete base, anchored by all those piles? Did you know that each brick was handmade by a two man company in Swanage, that the straight ones cost 13p each and the angled ones cost 60p each (£3.50 in today's money)? And that there are around two million of them?

As well as our little group of students, the Warden and the Fellows used Adams Road every day. And there was no 'high table', there was just a table. We were able to freely mix with Prof Lewis, Prof Hooker, and their guests. One memorable evening was the visit of Joseph Needham, the great historian of Chinese science. As well as the company we had good food. We had an in-house cook, named Jean, and both the weekly formal meals and the day to day cooking was much better than normal student fare - I have particularly fond memories of Jean's soups! The Academics were friendly, enthusiastic and endlessly patient with the sometimes naive questions and comments of the students. I also got to meet Izzy Metzstein, the Architect of the new building.

However, the best thing, and with hindsight, the best part of my whole experience at Cambridge, was being involved in the College building committee. Jack Lewis asked for a couple of student volunteers to give their input, and I found it so interesting I stayed on the committee.

Among other things I was party to the decision that there should be a separate MCR, for post-grads, and to choosing curtains, and the design of the Pegasus logo (featured on a Robinson tie). There was also the origin of the 'Rob Coll' abbreviation, which first appeared on some table mats ordered in 1979. Some members of the committee horrified by the abbreviation suggested we buy a further set with the words 'inson ege' on them...

Why was all this 'the best thing'? Because I got to see and work with an absolute master at academic committee management, Jack Lewis, at first hand and close range. Watching the Prof run a committee was simply a joy, to see something done so consummately well. As well as being incredibly polite and likeable, Jack had a gift for listening patiently to a lengthy exposition from a colleague and gently interposing a succinct 'If I may summarise Dr xxx, what you'd like us to do is to bear in mind the need for consonance between the fabric and the architectural motifs, - I think we can all agree with that wish'. His summary of the important points the colleague was trying to make, together with spotting the underlying, often unstated concern, was always so spot-on that no-one could disagree with him. He was also wonderful at ensuring everyone present had a chance to contribute, and was adept at suggesting where two people might work together and share ideas. In 35 years of research

and business work after leaving Robinson, I never met anyone who could chair a meeting as effectively as Jack, and his example was always before me whenever I was participating in or leading difficult discussions. He was of course a thoroughly delightful man, who 30 years later at a Reunion, not only remembered me but remembered my wife as well, even though she was just a 'weekend visitor' to Adams Road.

Adams Road was a good place to stay, especially in the spring and summer. I learned the 'Cambridge skills' of punting and croquet, to go along with improving my darts after days in the Chem Labs. In my final year I moved out to a shared room in a village outside Cambridge, but still came back to Adams Road as often as possible. The Cavendish Labs had not been built then, so Adams Road was a quiet 'dead end' and I remember giving driving lessons there to one of our first graduate intake in 1980. I had a trusty VW Beetle, which covered long miles between Cambridge, London (where my girlfriend, now wife, was living), Exeter to see my family, and Aberdeen where her family were. Getting the first group of UG students was also an exciting time - we could start the first Robinson College sports team, a mixed tennis VI, that played various grass court games in the summer of 1980.

I never stayed in the new College building as I left a month or two before it was complete, but in recent years my work has taken me to Cambridge. It has been great fun to stay at the College and walk along Adams road to the Cavendish Labs for the day's work. There is more traffic these days (mainly cyclists) but I still enjoy walking past number 5 and wondering 'who's in my room?' - perhaps I'll go and find out one of these days.



Photographs by Dr Kevin Parker

# Learning

by Dr Brian McCabe,  
Fellow Emeritus and Tutor  
to Graduate Students



I am interested in how brains enable behaviour to be modified by experience - that is in learning and memory. A fruitful way of studying these important processes is to focus on an animal that is simple, easy to study and widely representative. Evolution aids this approach: species with a common ancestor retain common features. Even when evolutionary branches diverge, biological systems are limited in the number of ways a job can be done. Indeed, disparate animals have been found to learn in similar ways. Ethologist Pat Bateson and neurobiologist Gabriel Horn chose to study imprinting, a learning process prominent in birds such as chickens and ducks, but which is very common in mammals as well. Through imprinting, a young animal typically learns the characteristics of a parent and demonstrates this learning by selectively directing its attention to the now-familiar individual. Domestic chicks will readily imprint to artificial objects in the laboratory and one can arrange for their previous experience around hatching to be minimal, giving a low, stable baseline against which learning-related changes can be detected. For these and other reasons imprinting provides an excellent means of studying memory. I joined Pat and Gabriel, and together we identified a region of the chick brain that evidently stores information about the imprinting stimulus. This permitted detailed study of the recognition memory underlying imprinting, which resembles recognition memory in many species including our own.

While working on the imprinting memory system, it has been necessary to bear in mind that one's hypotheses must account for the sophisticated attachment behaviour to which imprinting contributes. An example of this sophistication was provided in 2016 by Antone Martinho and Alex Kacelnik in Oxford, who provided evidence that ducklings can learn abstract properties of a visual imprinting stimulus, namely whether the two halves of a stimulus are similar or different. This put me in mind of our own work involving weak electrical stimulation of the chick memory system at a given frequency, in chicks that had not been imprinted. The chicks subsequently behaved as if they had become imprinted - to a light flashing at the familiar stimulation frequency. We concluded that abstract information (frequency) was stored and then recognised when presented as a new, visual, sensation. A current interest is in the enhancement of memory by sleep, an effect that can improve what you remember of a book that you read at bedtime. It is not known how the brain does this, but we have found that sleep also improves chicks' memory of an imprinting stimulus and now understand something of the processes responsible.

After imprinting, the memory system becomes unstable: its nerve cells do not respond reliably to the imprinting stimulus. Sleep causes this responsiveness to become more stable. A further finding has implicated brain waves of particular frequencies in improving memory by sleep. At the moment I am keen to know to what extent imprinting resembles the process by which songbirds learn their song, which markedly resembles the learning of speech by human infants.

More work must be done for a good understanding of how the brain performs all this, but we might reasonably expect medical benefits eventually. The work is relevant to other fields - information technology perhaps - and there is also everything to be said for just knowing how these elegant systems work.

# Legal Engineering

by Dr Drishti Bindra

*Drishti Bindra is a recent LLM graduate (2016-2017) from Robinson College, where she specialised in Commercial Law. She enjoys combining her commercial knowledge with her understanding of international commercial law. She has previously been an intern at Wavelength where she discovered her passion for legal engineering; currently she is working as a Legal Engineer at Wavelength.law limited. Drishti works closely with the other members of its legal engineer team at the interface of law, data and technology and regularly assists with drafting and advising clients.*

Legal Engineering is the use of data, lean process methods and teamwork to troubleshoot problems in legal process. It involves designing and implementing systems that reduce duplication and using sensible technology tools (automation and machine learning) in the right part of the process.

To give some insight into Legal Engineering, let me talk about how I got introduced to this amazing field and what more it involves. Having a background in law and economics, I wanted to specialise in Commercial law and felt privileged to be admitted to the University of Cambridge to pursue L.L.M. During my course I was introduced to this very wonderful world of Artificial Intelligence. I was taken aback initially as some people say it is eating up the career of junior lawyers, but after doing work experience with the legal engineering firm Wavelength.law, I realised its importance in today's world of modern technology. It has been rightly said by Richard Susskind in his book *The End of Lawyers* that it's time for lawyers to adapt to technology and make wonders. This is the time for new solutions at the interface of law and technology. This is the world of

fourth generation innovation where disruption is driven by new technologies that have transformed human ability to combine, access, utilise and visualise information. We are living in a world of digital transformation which has a potential to transform the way we work, as a result of eliminating the human and paper constraints associated with information. We also explore the opportunity inherent in the new tools that have emerged to exploit and manage digital information to give lawyers and others greater insights than ever before. A solicitor's life, which can be boring and monotonous, reading a hundred pages every time, but with the new technology those pages can be read under five minutes, with the key points of interest and relevant clauses marked out. Some systems are also capable of determining the absence of important clauses that are typically found in legal agreements.

The idea of an interface between data, law and technology has given me a new vision of bringing new thinking to legal process and improving it through the use of new tools and technologies. Currently, working with Wavelength.law Limited as a Legal Engineer, I am trying to navigate, connect and integrate point legal technical solutions with the real-time practice of law. It is great to produce innovative technical solutions to complex legal problems and unlock the potential in the legal data and to delight clients.

In addition, I am thankful to Robinson College. The College environment and regular meetings with Warden, graduate tutors, social events and many more has not only helped me to excel in my studies but has also helped to develop my personality and outlook. The warmth, support and appreciation I received from being the first-year officer to every opportunity given to express my views on is commendable. Lastly, I am grateful for the appreciation and support from the Warden, College Fellows, graduate tutors and my fellow mates for the presentation on Legal Engineering on Research Days which helped my thoughts to reach out to larger people.

What does it mean to be a Legal Engineer? It is not about lawyers vs machine but what lawyers and machines can achieve together. It's all about being brave, innovative, imaginative, pragmatic, impatient, inspired by technology and is helped by a constant passion for something different and better.



Dr Drishti Bindra

# Tour of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology

by Dr Brian McCabe

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September a group of Robinson alumni and other members visited the new Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB) on the Addenbrookes's Biomedical Campus. The visit was organised by the Robinson Biomedical Sciences Alumni Association and hosted by Dr Lee Ying Wu, a post-doc in the LMB. In pride of place in the building's atrium is displayed a timeline of the many important discoveries originating in the LMB together with a list of its Nobel laureates (15 are officially claimed but more laureates have worked in the laboratory). A particularly interesting feature of the visit was the opportunity to meet several of Dr Wu's colleagues, who discussed their research informally with the visitors.

The laboratory [<http://www2.mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk/>] is one of a network of cell and molecular biology research centres in the United Kingdom and participates in collaborations world-wide. The LMB is designed to promote biomedical research that is generally recognised to be of fundamental importance, but which may take decades to reach fruition. Notable examples of such research are the discovery of the structure of DNA, which established the laboratory, and the development of revolutionary research tools such as monoclonal antibodies, also awarded a Nobel Prize.

We are most grateful to Dr Wu and her colleagues for their time and effort that they put into the visit and will be organising further activities of this sort in the future.



Back row, left to right: Felix Dingler (LMB), Stephen Kiely, Angela Wilcox-Kiely, Andrej Corovic, Tiong Sun Chia (LMB), Dr Brian McCabe

Front row, left to right: Firas Sadiyah, Talia Teren, Victor Chua, Yee Ling Wu (LMB), Dr Steve Trudgill, Yudan Ren, Zhen Zhong (LMB)

# Singing joyfully



Three times a week, the habitual hush of Robinson chapel bursts into song. Led by Director of Chapel Music, Simon Brown, Robinson's choir sings a diverse range of sacred music, from Palestrina to Parsons, Rutter to Rachmaninov. The past year was a particularly enterprising one for choral music in Robinson. Three third-years give accounts of the high points, as well as broader reflections of their time with the choir.

**Rhian Davies (2014)**, Choir President, graduated this summer with a BA in music. She has just begun a postgraduate course in singing at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.

## Paris Tour

In March, Robinson College Chapel Choir embarked on the first of their two tours of the academic year. Having established connections with the PSL Choir and Orchestra (comprised of students from the many research universities in Paris) last Easter, we had the pleasure of being invited back once again to Paris. A particular musical highlight of the tour involved collaborating on a dramatic and evocative performance of Bach's St John Passion at Saint Etienne du Mont (the church at which Duruflé was organist). Alongside our collaborative work with PSL Choir in presenting this epic piece, we were also given the somewhat dubious honour of performing the notorious and rhythmically challenging 'Wohin?' interrogatives during the bass aria 'Eilt, ihr angefocht'nen Seelen' on our own. The choir rose to the challenge with great aplomb and the sold-out concert was well received by audience and musicians alike. We were kindly looked after and hosted by other student musicians in PSL, so there was much merriment and note-comparing after the concert.



A jubilant choir following the final performance in Paris

Our second concert consisted of choral music, vocal solos and duets by members of the choir and keyboard interludes by the organ scholars in the medieval chapel of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts. For me, this was our finest hour in the tour with the ensemble and solo talents of Robinson Chapel Choir on full display – it was an incredibly exciting and moving programme of music that really resonated with those in attendance at the chapel.

In between these musical adventures was much sightseeing, our brightly coloured tour sweatshirts peppering the Parisian streets from the Rodin Museum to the Arc de Triomphe, and a celebratory choir lunch on our final day rounded off the trip splendidly. A thoroughly enjoyable few days, the Choir's second foray in France has cemented Paris as a firm tour favourite and has, in doing so, opened the door for more collaborative endeavours, such as the Robinson Consort's recent invitation to perform in Festival Les Antiques de Glanum in Provence.



David Warren (far right) comes out decisively on top in a choir high jump competition in Luxembourg Gardens

**David Warren (2014)**, Organ Scholar, graduated this summer with a BA in music. He is now taking an MA in conducting at Texas Tech University.

## May Week

Following the choir's marginally lightened schedule of the Easter term, May Week provides ample opportunity to make up for lost singing. Having joined with King's Voices in King's chapel earlier in the year, we welcomed the choir of Fitzwilliam college for the final Evensong at Robinson. The combined choirs produced an electrifying sound to conclude the year's choral services.

Robinson College Music Society's May Week concert then saw an incomparable programme of music largely by George Gershwin and Gerald Finzi, featuring chamber performances of Finzi's Eclogue and Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. The concert was book-ended by *I got rhythm* and *Summertime* performed by 'Vocal Chords', Robinson's a cappella ensemble, and by the choir's contributions; Finzi's *God is gone up* and a newly composed *Jubilate* by Anthony Gray. This year has seen a number of commissions by present and former students. It was apt, therefore, that such a work, by the new Senior Organ Scholar, should mark the end of the academic year.

Within days of my coming up to Robinson, the friendly ethos and dedication of the Chapel Choir became apparent. Experienced members made themselves known to their somewhat clueless organ scholar and new arrival and before long we were scheduling auditions and getting to know the bright-eyed new recruits, whether excited freshers or seasoned PhDs. Although a degree at Cambridge can prove challenging in the extreme, the energy and warmth of the choir have been a supportive source of positivity. Whilst both the quantity and quality of music making in chapel services and concerts are considerable, what I have enjoyed most have likely been the more eccentric occasions. Climbing atop the college tower for May Morning Madrigals, singing in the ruins of Totnes Castle and straining to be heard over tumultuous choruses of 'five gold rings' at Christmas Hall are just a few of the many fond memories I shall take with me.



Madrigals from the top of the tower on a splendid May Morning

**Harry Normanton (2014)**, Choral Scholar graduated this summer with a BA in history. This year he is staying on at Robinson to take an MPhil in Modern British History.

## Devon Tour

The choir celebrated the end of the year with a tour of Devon. Upon arrival we sang Evensong at St John the Apostle, Torquay, a splendid Victorian church hewn

into the cliffs of Torbay. The service's music was in large part a tribute to Orlando Gibbons, featuring his *Short Service*, and *O Clap Your Hands Together*. The latter piece also featured in the Choir's concerts over the next two evenings, at Buckfast Abbey and St Mary's, Totnes. They consisted mainly of sixteenth century music, including Palestrina and Byrd, and a trio of Ave Marias by Bruckner, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky. We were warmly received at all three venues, and one man was so enamoured of our singing that he attended every performance.

Alongside singing, plenty of time was left for exploring the delights of Devon. We took in Exeter's marvellous cathedral (boasting the longest single continuous vault in Europe), the equally exhilarating model village at Babbacombe (featuring brand new narrow boats), and the lovely beaches of the south-west. The evenings were spent in a vast Victorian house owned by Buckfast Abbey. As we had it all to ourselves, revelry continued long into the nights. A grand time was had by all; for those leaving the choir, this was a fitting note on which to depart.

Before I came to Robinson, I did not have much musical experience; I had sung in the local youth choir for two years, and taken part in a few school productions. It has been particularly exciting, therefore, to have had the opportunity over the past few years to take part in a range of musical groups. I have particularly enjoyed singing in the chapel choir. They are a collection of musicians impressive for both their accomplishment and ambition, and their friendliness and generosity. They have provided a musical education and an open-hearted community for which I am deeply grateful. Particular high points have been learning to 'cantor' (sing the chants to which the choir responds in the 'Preces and Responses' of an Evensong service) and singing the St John Passion, a wildly exciting, but also fiendishly difficult, piece which I remain astonished that we managed to learn in the space of a term.



Hewn into the living rock: St John the Apostle, Torquay

# Sporting Life



**Akil Hashmi**, a first year undergraduate at Robinson was coxing the Women's Lightweight Eight that won, convincingly on 26th March 2017 at the Henley Boat Races. Akil has been an excellent addition to the team since his arrival in January, when he joined the team from CUBC. The Lightweight Eight raced beautifully, winning by a significant margin of 3 lengths! He was also superbly supportive during the week leading up to the London Boat Races, as the Blondie cox was ill. Akil made sure he was available to take her place for sessions and helped to keep everyone on form. The team are thrilled to have won all 5 of their races, Lightweight Reserve, Lightweight Eight, Open-weight Spare Pair, Blondie and Blue Boat - 5 out of 5 races!!

## 2017 Cambridge University Women's Boat Club Squad



Back: Thea Zabell (Downing), Kirsten Van Fossen (St John's), Dorottya Nagy (Churchill), Alice White (Homerton), Claire Lambe (Homerton), Paula Wulff (Churchill), Lucy Pike (Trinity Hall), Izzy Edwards (Downing), Emma Andrews (Pembroke), Rebecca Abbott (Jesus), Melody Swiers (Fitzwilliam), Ellie Thompson (Newnham), Anna Dawson (Newnham).

Middle: Rosie Boxall (Clare), Fenella McLuskie (St John's), **Akil Hashmi (Robinson)**, Fanny Belais (King's) Brittany Presten (Peterhouse), Sally O'Brien (Peterhouse), Karolina Farr (Peterhouse), Ellie Hopgood (Girton), Patricia Smith (Christ's).

Front: Melissa Wilson (Lucy Cavendish), Myriam Goudet (Lucy Cavendish), Olivia Jamrog (Lucy Cavendish), Matthew Holland (Gonville & Caius), Imogen Grant (Trinity), Evie Lindsay (Gonville & Caius), Rachel Elwood (Gonville & Caius), Iona Casley (Gonville & Caius).

Not Pictured: Ashton Brown (Fitzwilliam), Holly Hill (Downing), Oonagh Cousins (Gonville & Caius).

## Victorious - Sailing Successes

**James Pinder (2013)** captained the victorious Varsity Match team and was awarded his Full Blue.



Cambridge Team. Front: Duncan Hampshire, Jamie Webb, James Pinder (Captain), Henry Morley.  
Back: George Hopes, Tim Gratton, Thomas Mather, Josh Adams, Dave Robertson

James's team also won Round 3 of the RYA Winter Match Racing Series held at Weymouth on 25/26 March 2017.

James captained the Cambridge Blue team that finished second at 61<sup>st</sup> BUSA out of over 80 entries. Cambridge dominated BUSA at West Kirby 4-6 April 2017, finishing second, third, and fourth.

Cambridge finished 1st, 3rd, and 5th in the Swiss League and all three teams made it to the semi finals, where Cambridge Black and Cambridge Purple battled each other for 3rd and 4th places, with Purple coming out on top. Cambridge Blue struck back in the third race to make the score 2-1, but Exeter refused to be dismayed and took the fourth race to prove worthy winners of BUSA 2017



Cambridge Blue: Hugo Sloper, Jamie Webb, James Pinder, Cat Wallace, George Hopes, Tim Gratto

On 20 June 2017 James captained the victorious Robinson Cuppers team (**Arthur Henderson, Alex Berry and Matt Kite**). In perfect Mediterranean conditions and in a field of no less than 21 colleges, Robinson took the Yule Oldham Cup from Catz in the team racing final

**Alex Berry, James Pinder, Arthur Henderson, Matt Kite** receive the 1924 Yule Oldham Team Racing Cuppers trophy from President Mike Hayles





# Alumni News

## 1980

**Sheila Duffy** received the annual Scottish Cancer Foundation prize and Evans Forrest medal in November 2016. <http://scottishcancerfoundation.org.uk/news/anti-smoking-campaigner-wins-top-award/>



**Neil Mullarkey** published his new book *Seven Steps to Improve Your Personal Skills*. The book was published by The London Business Forum in October 2017. Neil says about his book: "This book is essential if you want to become better at dealing with people - whether it be colleagues, clients or those you meet for the first time". It distils Neil's eighteen years of management training and the latest academic research to bring you a simple, amusing and highly applicable guide.

## 1982

**Fiona Gardner** has spent the 32 years since graduation in the British Army, with a focus on logistics and personnel. She is currently Head of People Strategy in the Ministry of Defence.



**Mary Wild** is Head of the School of Education at Oxford Brookes University. She is a qualified teacher with experience in both the primary and early years sectors. Her research interests include early childhood literacy, children's thinking; and the use of ICT to support learning and she has published widely in these fields. She has undertaken consultancy projects in the UK, the ROI and in Turkey for UNICEF. Mary is a member of the National Strategy Group for the Early Childhood Studies Degree Network and of the Strategic Schools Partnership Board for Oxfordshire. She also is a member of the British Psychological Society, the British Educational Research Association and the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers. Mary sits on the Advisory Panel for The Story Museum.



## 1983

**Mike Ward and Emma Ward (née Handley, 1985)** have been on the move recently. Mike has been a Professor in the Chemistry Department at the University of Sheffield for 14 years, and in August 2017 he moved to a new post as head of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Warwick. Mike and Emma met at Robinson (through the chapel choir): they married in 1991 in Bristol and have four children. Ben has completed part 3 Maths at Girton and James is half way through an engineering degree – at Robinson! Twins David and Clare have started A-levels. Mike and Emma are looking forward to a new challenge and a change of scenery as their home life quietens down. Anyone who wants to get in touch by email is welcome to do so [atmikeemma\\_ward@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:atmikeemma_ward@blueyonder.co.uk)

## 1984

**Corinne Cunningham** is still living in London and in touch with many old Robinsonians. She is looking forward to welcoming **Deborah Sims** back to UK after several years abroad. Hoping to take a vacation with **Sarah Carson** as her first bucket list trip after 23 years at RELX plc - a gap year maybe! Corinne is also in touch with **Jo** and **Andrew MacCormack, Sally West, Anna** and **Jon Willey** and **Caroline Thomson**. Her oldest son is soon to be applying to universities and younger one not far behind. Husband James ex Emanuel and Corinne continue to find sporting challenges and holiday travels keep us busy and motivated.

**Matt Schofield** and his Anglo-Argentine family are back in Cambridge after four years in Latin America. Matt is now working for Cambridge University Press running the global rollout of their Finance and Fulfilment systems. The first branch to get the systems already supporting the UK and US is Iberia, and Brazil and Mexico come shortly thereafter, but he is delighted to be able to attend more College activities after years away.

## 1987

After accountancy training at the National Audit Office in London **Imogen Jenny Cole** moved into charity finance working mainly for charities with an overseas focus. Since 2014 she has changed direction and started to work for a UK based charity called Fegans, which counsels children and provides parent support in London and the South East. Imogen married Nick (St Johns 1986-90) in 1994. Nathan (aged 18) has just started at Exeter University and Hannah (aged 16) is studying A levels. As a family they have enjoyed several periods abroad living and working in the US and Thailand and now live in Tonbridge.



**Rachel Ann Gray** writes: "I wasn't a very good scientist as it turned out - so after graduating from Robinson, and spending a year travelling with Greg NK & Peter Brook, I pursued a career in technology sales. Most recently I enjoyed a 20 year career at Cisco, where I was an active member of the UK board, whilst running a large sales team and leading the companies Inclusion & Diversity strategy. Outside of work, I am married to Rob and we have three children - Henry (15), Sam (13) and Annabelle (11). All the children are very active so we spend most weekends taxiing them to and from sporting fixtures. We live in Godalming, Surrey with our two cockerpoo dogs - Nala and Fudge. As my sabbatical year comes to an end, I'm actively looking for a new challenge and to develop my career in a sales leadership role."



**Dr Nicola Morgan (née MacDonald)** is now jointly appointed as a Palliative Care Consultant Physician with the Gold Coast Health Service and an Honorary Adjunct Assistant Professor at Bond University, with a research interest in the quality use of medications. Nicola graduated in Medicine from the University of Oxford in 1993. Following training as a General Practitioner in 1997 she moved to Mount Gambier, Australia where she worked as a GP Principal for 12 years. On moving to Adelaide in 2010 she changed direction and became a palliative care physician. She has worked as a consultant physician in Adelaide, Cairns and most recently the Gold Coast. She has a keen interest in quality use of medicines and evidence based care and believes that access to high quality care should be available in both rural and urban areas. Nicola remains passionate in her desire to integrate a palliative focus into all areas of clinical education and in strengthening ties between research, policy and practice.



**Rob Siddal** is now happily entering (or may be close to exiting) middle age and most of his hair has fallen out—something that first came to light sitting at a (largely redundant) "dressing table" under the window of Room 1, 5 Adams Road. He is married to Pascale, who is French, and has two children, Pierre (15) and Perrine (12). After what some might say was a chequered career (with stints as an engineer and lobbyist), he now runs a successful freelance writing business – [anglo-corporate.com](http://anglo-corporate.com) – writing and translating business copy for both French and English-speaking clients. He lives in Redhill, Surrey but holds out the hope of returning to the north.



## 1989

**Victor and Anastasia Chua**, who were married in Westcott House Chapel in Cambridge in 2012, continue to live in south Cambridge and commute weekly to London (Oxford Circus) for work. They would welcome contact from old Robinsonians in Victor's year re-visiting Cambridge. If there is enough interest, Victor would like to organise a reunion to coincide with Alumni weekend in 2018.



**Ola Uduku** took up a Chair in Architecture at the Manchester School of Architecture, jointly run by Manchester Metropolitan and Manchester Universities, in September 2017. Prior to that appointment, she was Reader in Architecture, and Dean International for Africa, at Edinburgh University. Her research specialisms are in the history of educational architecture in Africa, and the contemporary issues related to social infrastructure provision for minority communities in cities in the 'West' and 'South'. In the past published she published in the areas of African Architecture, African Diaspora Studies, Gated Communities, and is currently completing her book titled *Learning Spaces in Africa: Critical Histories, 21st Century Challenges and Change*, scheduled for publication in 2018. She is also Director of the M.Sc. Programme in Urban Strategies and Development, where she runs a University elective course on African Cities.

## 1991

**Jonathan Reeve** writes: "We've been in Melbourne for almost ten years, living close to the beach. I'm consulting to retailers on last-mile fulfilment and have just published a book on the disruption of store retail by online shopping, *Retail's Last Mile: Why Online Shopping Will Exceed Our Wildest Predictions*. Any alumni from 1991 are welcome to get in touch if you are in Australia."



## 1983

**Sophie and Jonathan Collier (1990)** celebrated the arrival of Jacob John Henry on 21 February 2017. A brother for Lucy Alex and Sam.



**Dominic and Victoria Laurie** are delighted to announce the birth of their first child Sean Gabriel Sylvain Laurie on 9 April 2017. A total joy for all the family.

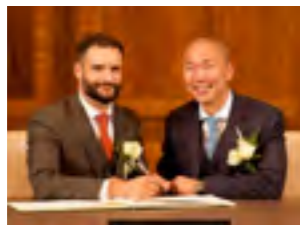
## 1995

**Johns Fearn** proudly announces:

“My partner Sandy and I were over the moon to finally bring our little Millie into the world early last year. She is one already, and super cute”.



**Harvey Koh** got married to Michael Cutts on 4-5 August this year in London. Many Binsonites were in attendance, and **Maja Kecman (1996)** was one of my ‘best people’.



Photograph by Andrea Whelan.

## 1996

**Jo (1998)** and **Matt Luscombe** and their children, Theo (4) and Cassie (1), have relocated to Melbourne, Australia for a new adventure over the next few years.

## 1997

**Tom Goodman** and his wife Vera welcomed the arrival of their third child Vivien in July 2016, and are enjoying life back in the U.K.

## 1998

**Caroline Wood-Roe** and her husband Marcus are delighted to announce the arrival of their son William who was born on 17 December 2016.

## 1999

Mark (Clare, 1998) and **Catherine Lowrie (née Leather)** are overjoyed to announce the arrival of Harry’s little sister, Eve Alice, on 2nd December 2016. They are embracing rural life following a recent move to Derbyshire.



**Rebecca Seddon (née Mills)** and Adam Seddon (St John’s 1999) are delighted to announce that Oliver (Olly) Mills Seddon was born in November 2016, joining big brother Rory, who is mostly pleased with the new arrival. Beckie is returning to work at Polka Theatre in Wimbledon following maternity leave.



## 2000

**David Charles Stuart Gates** announces the arrival of Charles Llewellyn Stuart born on 19 January 2017, a brother to John.



**Emma Pearson** and Dennis Hollich (Virginia Tech Hokie and Engineer) are delighted to announce their engagement to be married in 2018. They have relocated from Belgium to Washington DC in the summer, where Emma has accepted an exciting new career opportunity in the medical industry. Emma now enjoys using her physics background in Proton Therapy Product Release for the North America Region. The transition to the USA has gone smoothly and we are looking forward to this new phase in our lives.



## 2001

**Vicky Welton (née Haslingden)** married John-Henry Welton on 13th August 2016 in Rugby, East Midlands.



## 2002

**Tim Blower** writes: “After ten years in Cambridge moving through my undergraduate degree to a postdoctoral research post in the Biochemistry Department I felt it was time to prove I could survive out in the world. I was awarded an EMBO fellowship to work over in the USA, at the University of California-Berkeley



and also Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore (if you’ve seen The Wire, you know this is a good proving ground for survival instinct!). Now back in the UK, I run my own lab at Durham University. Our focus is bacterial and viral biology, using genetics and X-ray diffraction experiments to determine how bacteria and viruses interact and how antibiotic resistance mechanisms work.”

**Adam Fairman** writes: “The last two years have been particularly full of blessings, starting with my marriage to Megumi and ending with the birth of our son, Tomohito Abraham (the photo is at Tomo’s baptism). In that time we’ve also bought a house in Cardiff and I’ve done some further study, an MSc in Electrical Energy Systems at Cardiff University. The latter was to increase my usefulness in my role at Welsh Water where I’m responsible for the energy efficiency and renewable energy investment programme”.



**Rachel Lafferty** married Nick Zani on 24 September 2016 in Italy. **Laura MacKenzie (2002)** was a bridesmaid and **Beth Woods, Deepak Maharaj** and **Paul Keane** were guests (all 2002).



After eleven happy years living in South East London **Alastair and Serena Newman** moved back to Cambridge this September with their children Sebastian (4) and Genevieve (1). Alastair is training for ordination as a Church of England priest at Westcott House, and returned to Robinson for the academic part of his training and on attachment in the College Chapel (where Alastair and Serena met fourteen years ago). This is a really exciting change, and they cannot wait to see what the future holds for them.

After ten years following the conventional path of an English graduate and teaching, things took a different turn in 2015 **Rachel Yarrow**. With her partner Fraser, she became a cheesemaker and they now have their own herd of 80 goats. Rachel and Fraser’s cheese won ‘Best New Cheese’ at the Artisan Cheese Awards in 2017. They got married in 2015 and their son Gabriel was born in December 2016.

## 2004

**Victoria Mira (née Jenkins)** and her husband Rodrigo Mira would like to announce the birth of their daughter Ana Sophia Mira Jenkins on 27 December 2016 weighing a healthy 8lb 4. Isabella, now aged 9 years, is a very proud big sister.



**Ben Sillis** and Stephanie Nelson (Pembroke, 2004) welcomed their son James Rowan Nelson Sillis in April 2017.



## 2007

**Matthew Williams** has worked as a Clinical Scientist in radiotherapy and radiation protection at Velindre Cancer Centre, Cardiff since 2012. Happy to have recently moved into a new house in Caerphilly with his partner Maeve.

## 2008

**Laurence McGlashan** and Yudan are pleased to announce the birth of Jinyan on 9 December 2016. Jinchen is very happy to become an older brother



## Other Members of College

**Bernhard Drabant (Bye Fellow 1999)** was appointed Professor of Computer Science at Corporate State University in Mannheim, Germany, in July 2017. After leaving Cambridge in December 1999, Bernhard had been working at SAP SE - the largest European software company - until he took up the new post at Corporate State University.



**Alan Ching Wah Lam** and **Nicolette Chan Lam (Senior Member)** write: “Our little boy, Eliot John Hongkiu Lam was born on 30 March in Tokyo at 4am, weighing 2.6kg and measuring 50.5cm. We settled on our baby’s name after much deliberation. ‘Eliot’ is after our much loved T.S. Eliot; ‘John’ is John 3:16; ‘Hongkiu’

is the phoneticisation of Eliot’s Chinese name. Both have several meanings. First, the two words are also in the Chinese name of our respective universities (Cornell, Cambridge), as these institutions shaped us (for better or worse!). Second, the other word in his name means health, well-being, sufficiency and generosity, and the last part literally means bridge - we hope Eliot will be bridging God and His people, different cultures, nationalities, etc.

# Obituary



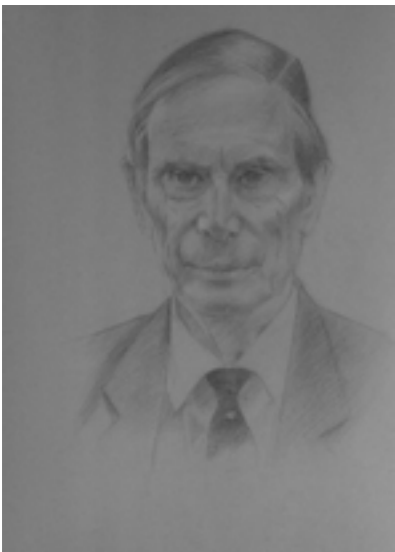
**Sidney Fung (1985)** was born on 14th January, 1960. He was particularly creative, with a keen interest in the Chinese language, poems, fine arts, drama and culture as a boy. He was also born with a propensity to lead with vision and integrity, as the eldest of four in his family, and as a prefect in his high school.

He gained a History degree, top of his cohort, from The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1983, and proceeded to study History and International Politics at Robinson College of Cambridge University in 1985. He did very well in Cambridge and was a dear friend of Robinson College and Cambridge University. He had a successful career in business operations, management consulting and start-ups for the past 30 years, most notably at Cathay Pacific Airways and Mercedes-Benz China & Canada.

Sidney was extremely proud of the invaluable friendships he had established over his schooling, career and church life. He continued his service to Emmanuel English Church until his last days, and will be remembered as an influential leader, a role model in the community and faithful servant to God.

Sidney, 57, passed away on 5th August, 2017 at the Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital after a five-year battle with colon cancer. The beloved husband and father is survived by his wife, Teresa, sons, Clement and Harry, daughter-in-law, Tsuey Xin and grandson Julius.

# Remembering John Grieve Smith



A Memorial Service for Mr John Grieve Smith (Senior Bursar 1982-1995) was held in the College Chapel on Saturday 28 October 2017. The family, the friends and the colleagues of John gathered to give thanks for his life.

In his eulogy Dr Mark Hayes, Former Fellow and Director of Studies in Economics, remembered his colleague and with a sense of regret he said: "How often do we only find out things about people after they are gone! When I arrived at Robinson in 2006 I was delighted by the College's positive response to my unfashionable approach to Economics. What also struck me was the remarkably good collection of books in the Library from my point of view. Soon I received a phone call from John (not many people used the telephone by then) introducing himself and proposing lunch in the SCR.

This was the first of several regular lunches where we talked about economic policy and the state of economics. It became clear to me why the Fellowship was so receptive and the Library so well stocked! Although John by then had reached 80 years of age, his conversation remained lucid, stimulating and sometimes

challenging. He was a kindred spirit in many ways. At first, I now regret, I did not take him seriously enough until, with the passage of years, I became a little wiser, at least enough to understand his thought more fully.

John was radical only in the sense of going to the root of the matter (unless one sees Beveridge and Attlee as radicals). He displayed great courage in speaking up publicly against the consensus, despite being labelled 'unreconstructed' by New Labour for his pains. His was a strong, clear voice in the wilderness, reminding us that we can be better – so much better – than this. He believed firmly in social justice. He was one of the few voices who would make the case for the welfare state as it was originally conceived, a system of universal social provision underpinned by full employment.

John is sorely missed but his understanding of Economics has not been lost, and has been transmitted to further generations of students and scholars, however embattled we may find ourselves at present within the academic establishment. There is hope. It is not misplaced. May he rest in peace".

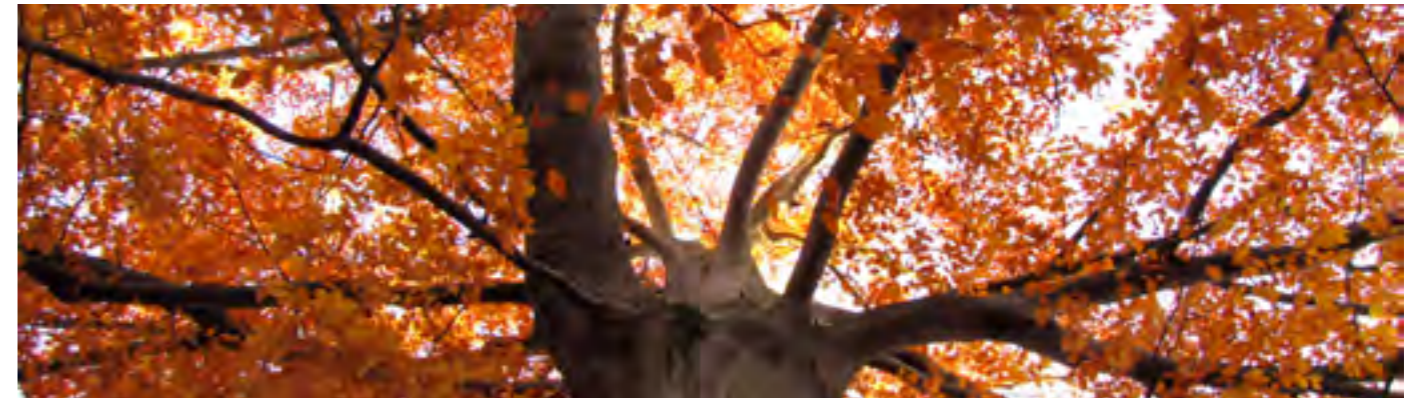
# Securing Robinson's Future



Robinson is delighted to welcome its new Development Director, **Sarah Westwood**. Sarah joins us from Lucy Cavendish College where she led the development programme. Before joining Lucy, Sarah was at St John's College for eight years throughout its successful £50 million endowment campaign, so she has a wealth of experience of the Cambridge context.

Sarah says: "I'm so pleased to be joining Robinson at such an exciting time in its development, and having the opportunity to build on the work of my predecessor Helen Cornish; I feel very fortunate to have inherited a great team. They have been wonderfully welcoming and I enjoyed joining them in greeting our undergraduates in October. I hope to meet as many alumni as possible over the next few months, and to working with you all over the coming years to help secure Robinson's future."

Sarah can be contacted on 01223 768895, email [sw344@cam.ac.uk](mailto:sw344@cam.ac.uk)



# Thank you to all our donors

A huge thank you to all of our readers who have given to Robinson over the past year. We received £1,795,302 in new gifts and pledges in 2016/17 and overall around 12% of Robinson alumni, 13% of former undergraduates and 6.4% of former graduate students made a gift - a fantastic testament to their affection for the College.

25% of Fellows also made a donation and a total of 50 people have now told us that gifts to the College are included in their wills. If you have also remembered Robinson in your will please do let us know so that we can ensure that you are appropriately thanked.

We have also received gifts from many other generous donors including parents of current students and alumni, Senior Members, College staff and the families and friends of all these groups, as well as a number of organisations. Every one of these gifts makes a difference.

During the year, 71 Robinson students received Cambridge Bursary Scheme Awards of up to £3,500. Robinson contributes 50% of the Cambridge Bursary Scheme award made to any qualifying Robinson student (the rest is contributed by the University). The College also made a further 25-40 awards totalling £21,457 from the Pegasus Bursaries Fund, the Bye-Fellows' Fund and other bursary

funds, to students facing unforeseen financial demands, unexpected changes in circumstance, or to those who do not qualify for CBS support such as Overseas and graduate students.

If you would like to know more about how Robinson's work is financed and the areas for which we particularly need support, more information is available on the College website at [www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/running-robinson-college-current-and-future-funding](http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/running-robinson-college-current-and-future-funding) and you can make a gift using the form on the back of this issue of Bin Brook, or online at [www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/general-donation/](http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/general-donation/).

There are other ways in which you can also support Robinson, including by using the easy fundraising link below, or by treating yourself to some Robinson College memorabilia – a small selection is shown in Robinson College Merchandise section of this issue. The full range can be seen at [www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/catalog/](http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/catalog/).

However you choose to support Robinson, thank you!

Help Robinson raise funds: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/robinsoncollegecambridgeuniversity](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/robinsoncollegecambridgeuniversity)

# Robinson College Merchandise



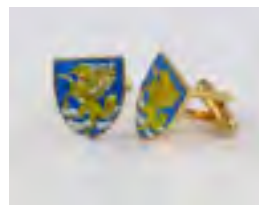
Port glass with engraved College crest: £12.50



Blue ballpoint pen: £1



Pashmina scarf/shawl: £20



Enamel cufflinks: £15



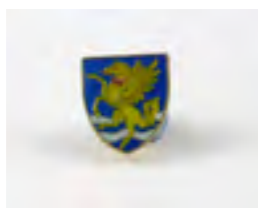
Enamel keyring £4.50



Mug: £6.50



Robinson bear: £10

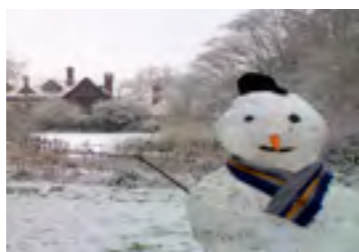


Enamel lapel pin: £1

## CHRISTMAS CARDS



The Beginning and the End, pack of 10: £5.00



Snowman pack of 10: £4.50



Conversing Figures, pack of 10: £4.50

The text in all these cards reads "Season's Greetings".

**The last order day before Christmas for Robinson merchandise will be Sunday 18 December 2017.**

To order any College merchandise, please visit the College website at <http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/catalog/>

## Robinson College Donation Form

Registered Charity No: 1137494



For office use:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Name (inc.title)

Address:

Postcode:

### Gift Aid Declaration - Making the most of your gift.

*giftaid it*

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

Please notify Robinson College if you wish to cancel this declaration, if you change your name or home address or if you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, please contact the Development Office or visit the HM Revenue & Custom website <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities-donors/>.

### I wish to support

Discretionary Fund  Student Support Fund  the Bye-Fellows' Fund  College Teaching  for PhD Scholarships

Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

### MAKING A REGULAR GIFT BY DIRECT DEBIT\*

\*Please complete the Direct Debit Instruction overleaf

I would like to make a regular gift of £\_\_\_\_\_ **monthly / quarterly / annually** (please circle)

Date of first payment: 6<sup>th</sup> of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_\_

### OTHER GIFTS

Please send me information about leaving a Legacy gift to Robinson College.  
 My company will match my gift under the Matching Gift Programme, the appropriate form is enclosed

**We take care:** Robinson College intends to maintain a lifelong relationship with you. Your personal information is securely held within the College and will be used only for the benefit of Robinson College and its members. Robinson College is the data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 in respect of your personal data, which is collected for the following purposes: the data will be used for a range of alumni relations activities, fundraising programmes (which may include direct marketing), and the sending of College publications and the promotion of benefits and services available to alumni. Very occasionally the College may disclose your personal data to individuals located outside the European Economic Area (EEA) who assist with the purposes set out above for the benefit of Robinson College. These individuals include alumni volunteers organising events or engaged in fundraising. By providing your details you consent to the transfer of those details.

Full details of our management of your personal data and your rights are outlined in full in our data protection statement at: <http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/data-protection>

If you have concerns or questions about how we manage your personal data, or how we will use your contribution, please contact us using the details below.

Please tick here if you wish your gift to remain **anonymous**

**Please return to:** The Development Office, Robinson College, Grange Road, Cambridge. CB3 9AN



